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THE TIMES

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Major backs Lamont in row over help with legal bills

Difficulties grow for the Chancellor with revelations about his receiving taxpayers' help in evicting a "sex therapist" who rented his London home. Calls for his resignation are growing

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN Major again stood by his embattled Chancellor last night after the disclosure that the taxpayer and the Conservative party paid legal bills incurred in evicting a "sex therapist" who rented his London home. The prime minister let it be known that he had no intention of demanding the resignation of a Chancellor who has a key role to play as Britain prepares for next week's European summit at Edinburgh where a budget deal is seen as vital to success.

But as Labour leaders and a lone Tory called openly for Mr Lamont's resignation, influential Tory MPs suggested pri-

made plain that payment of public funds towards Mr Lamont's legal costs had been allowed because the eviction had a direct bearing on Mr Lamont's position as Chancellor. Authorised by Sir Peter Middleton, former permanent secretary, the Treasury paid £4,000 plus VAT, while the remainder of the £23,000 bill was met from party funds.

Conservative Central Office said yesterday that "party sources" had covered the balance because Mr Lamont's reputation as the party's principal economic spokesman could have been damaged by the disclosure. The money did not come from funds raised by constituency parties, and appears to have been provided by one or more party benefactors.

Mr Lamont is known to have approached Sir Peter shortly after the disclosures in the *News of the World* in April last year. He is understood to have asked Chris Patten, then Tory chairman, for help with the rest of the bill.

Margaret Beckett, Labour's deputy leader, said: "Why was this kept secret if there is nothing wrong with it? And what else is there that we do not know about? It seems to me that the Chancellor's judgment is so plainly and utterly wrong that the sooner he goes the better. And the judgment of whoever authorised this payment is also suspect."

"He should never have asked for it. That is what I find so extraordinary. And if he was offered it, he should have refused. It is a very clear indication of the extent to which the present-day Conservative party and this government equate their personal convenience with the interests of the state."

Mr Lamont, who stayed at Dorneywood, his official country residence, yesterday, but on Saturday night, he issued a statement confirming that Sir Peter had decided it was "reasonable and proper" for the Treasury to meet a small proportion of the costs involved in issuing an immediate statement and handling press enquiries.

"These costs arose solely because of my public position as Chancellor. None of the

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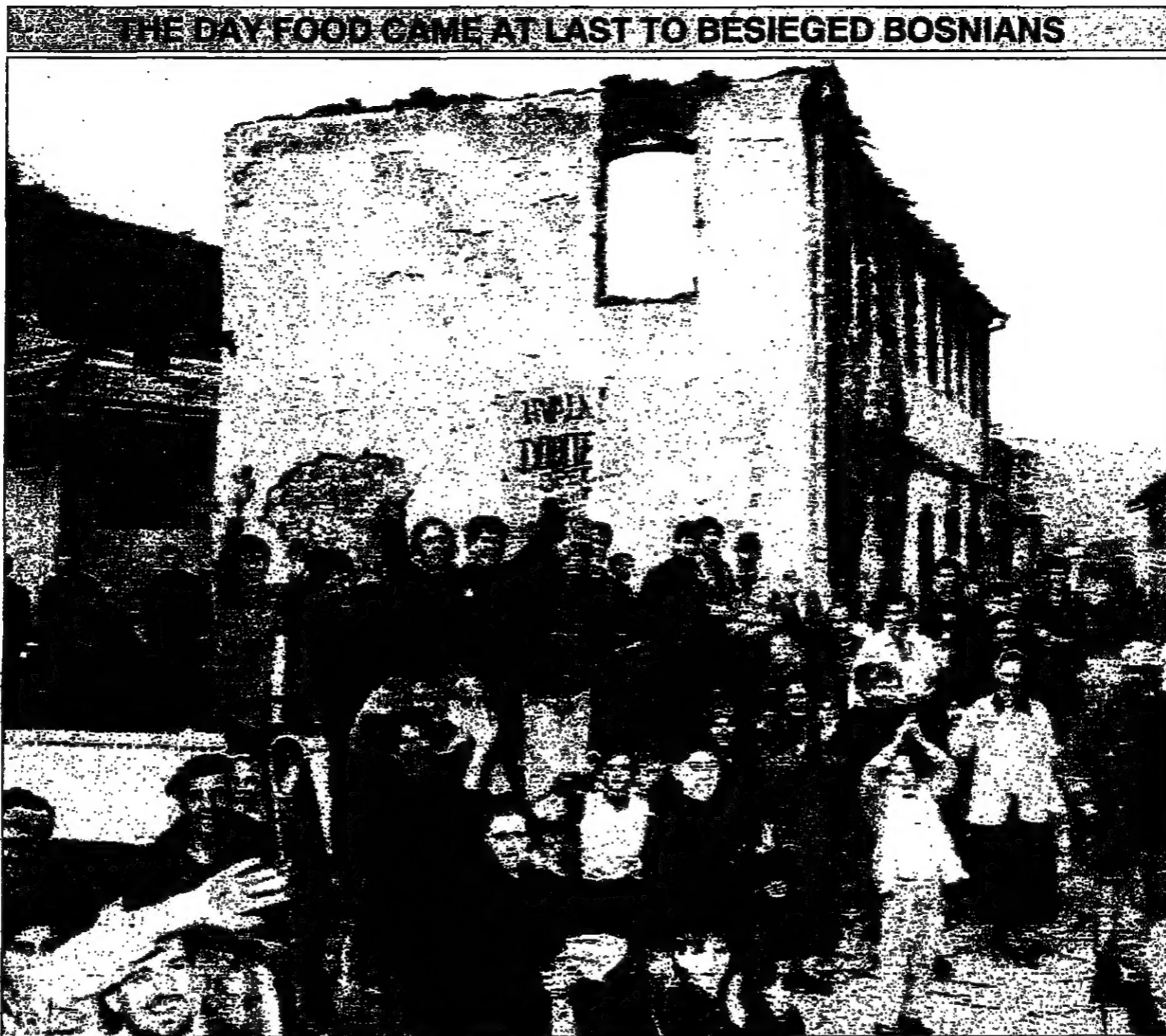
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vately that Mr Major would be forced into a reshuffle earlier than planned in the new year.

Several of Mr Lamont's backbench sympathisers suggested that the revelations about his legal expenses coming so soon after leaks about his credit card account were proof of a conspiracy to discredit him. Last week, newspapers reported that Mr Lamont had used his Access card to buy a bottle of champagne and a packet of cigarettes from a Threshers off-licence in west London and speculated on why he should make such purchases on a Monday night. But yesterday, Treasury officials were so concerned about continued doubts being expressed about Mr Lamont's denial that they released the till receipt from another Threshers branch showing that he had, as he said, bought three bottles of wine on his way to London the previous day.

The Treasury had earlier



Welcome party: the townspeople of Srebrenica, after eight months of hunger and isolation, applaud the UN convoy that broke through

UN brings hope to embattled Srebrenica

The shadow of death hangs over Srebrenica. In the spring Serb forces held this east Bosnian town for 15 days, and most of its Muslim population took to the hills. Two middle-aged couples who did not flee were shot in the front room of their house, the windows were shot and the house was set alight. The blaze has left perfect silhouettes of the dead engraved on the otherwise scorched carpet.

Blood stains the sheets that hang to dry outside Srebrenica hospital. The town has been besieged for almost eight months, and soap and detergent are distant memories.

Yet, amazingly, Srebrenica



still pulsates with life. People tumbled down the hills to greet the first United Nations aid convoy to breach Serbian lines since the war began. Cheering and waving, crying and laughing, thousands lined the roads as the UN convoy rolled in.

After three days of waiting, negotiating and angry Serb protests, the convoy was

allowed to cross to the Bosnian Muslim enclave of Srebrenica. The joyous reception was in stark contrast to that given to the convoy as it passed through Serb-held Bratunac where locals spat and jeered.

Tenaciously resisting an otherwise relentless Serb advance, Srebrenica has turned the Serb dream of an easy

seizure of land in the Drina valley into a nightmare. Hundreds of Serbs have paid for the siege with their lives.

On the other hand the Bosnian Muslims have also paid a high price. More than 70,000 are living on the very edge of existence in Srebrenica and two other enclaves.

This weekend Bosnian soldiers fired victoriously into the air as crowds gathered to tell their tales. "You are the first people we've seen in eight months," said Hasan Denanovic, a beaming Bosnian. Continued on page 11, col 3

Truce hopes dim, page 11

Sex mogul is Britain's richest man

By Michael Horsnell

PAUL Raymond, the pornographic magazine publisher and owner of the Raymond Revue Bar, has knocked the land-owning Duke of Westminster off his perch after ten years as Britain's richest man, proving that there is more money these days in porn than in inherited property.

According to *BusinessAge*, the grey-haired sex mogul, who never leaves his Soho office without two bodyguards, has a personal fortune of £1.5 billion. The Duke of Westminster, landlord of 200 acres in central London, has a paltry £735 million, revised downwards by the business magazine from £2 billion.

BusinessAge has reassessed its sums on the duke's wealth to take into account the parliamentary bill to allow leaseholders to buy their freehold at less than the market rate and the extraordinary fall in the value of residential properties in Mayfair. Mr Raymond,

who coincidentally lives on the Grosvenor Estate, enjoyed post-tax profits in 1991 of £7.6 million, mostly from the magazines *Men Only*, *Club International* and *Mayfair*. His master company is the Paul Raymond Organisation which was restructured last year to incorporate Soho Estates.

While the duke inherited his estates, Mr Raymond's property interests were acquired through 34 years of buying up property in Soho, financed from the cashflow of a sex business founded in the Raymond Revue Bar and then a publishing empire with sex as its only fare, according to *BusinessAge*. Mr Raymond's Soho freeholds amount to £1.4 billion and include 33 per cent of Berwick Street, 42 per cent of Frith Street, 31 per cent of Romilly Street and 18 per cent of Wardour Street.

The magazine says of the

duke's interests that it thinks his "fiefdom has an acute problem in terms of its large and expensive commercial properties, many of them now empty, and likely to stay that way until well after the recession is fully ended".

BusinessAge listed Britain's top ten richest men as: Paul Raymond, property owner (£1.1 billion); Gerald Weston, food manufacturer (£785 million); Gerald Groveson, Duke of Westminster (£735 million); Charles Fenech, duty-free retailing, mostly in the Far East (£690 million); Sir James Goldsmith, investor (£650 million); Richard Branson, entrepreneur (£425 million); David Thompson, industrialist (£390 million); Jack Walker, the industrialist who sold his firm for cash to British Steel in 1989 (£255 million) and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, composer (£240 million).

The Queen goes back to live in Windsor Castle

By John Young

BARELY a week after the fire that destroyed part of Windsor Castle, the Queen was unexpectedly back in residence last night.

The Royal Standard was flying above the battlements, and Buckingham Palace confirmed that the Queen had moved back into her private apartments. During the fire the rooms were emptied of furniture and paintings but they were unscathed. The Queen is to remain at Windsor, her usual weekend home, until this afternoon, when she will return to London.

The section of the castle holding Queen Mary's dolls' house and other parts closed while fire officers checked for possible damage are likely to reopen to the public this week. A report by fire officers investigating the cause of the blaze and why it was not extinguished sooner is expected to

be presented to the Queen today.

Stewart Kidd, director of the Fire Protection Association, said on television that the damage could have been reduced if recommended prevention measures had been taken. "The lessons of Hampton Court have clearly not been carried through to other royal palaces," he said. Mr Kidd chaired a working party two years ago on fire prevention in historic buildings.

Reconstructions apart, a lively debate can be expected in coming weeks over whether the damaged parts of the castle should be restored to their former appearance or rebuilt in a more contemporary style. One suggestion is that the Prince of Wales should head a committee to examine the question.

Castle restoration, page 8

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Labour's £10m campaign spending closes the gap with Tories

By MICHAEL
PINTO-DUSCHINSKY

THE Labour party spent nearly as much as the Tories during the last general election campaign, and more during crucial parts of the long pre-election period. It is one of the main surprises shown by the campaign accounts that have finally been produced by the rival party headquarters.

The virtual disappearance of the gap in spending explodes one of the long-standing myths of British politics, that the Tories always heavily outspend Labour in national campaigns.

Among other findings are the much higher spending by both parties, compared with the 1987 campaign, on posters and on producing political broadcasts, and the lower expenditure on press advertising.

Labour's head office reports that its central budget was almost twice as large, in real terms, as it has spent in any previous election. Total spending before and during the campaign was £10.6 mil-

The release of campaign accounts reveals the increasing extent to which party strategists have channelled their advertising resources into using — and manipulating — the power of TV

lion, compared with £11.2 million spent centrally by the Tories. During the campaign proper, Labour spent £7.76 million, against the Tories' £8.45 million. During the pre-election period, Labour spent £2.83 million, while Tory spending amounted to £2.74 million.

Walworth Road's general election fund collected £12 million. The surplus on the election fund helped to limit the deficit on the general, or routine, fund. This strong performance depended mainly on the trade union political levy, which provided three quarters of the election fund.

The party also raised £2 million during the election period in individual donations.

Conservative Central Office was in a dire financial state throughout the run-up to the election, Chris Patten, party chairman from November

1990 until just after the election, inherited a head-quarters than was some £8 to £9 million in the red. This constrained his strategy. Party spending of £11.2 million was marginally less in real terms than in 1987. But this was still the third highest budget, closely behind the 1964 and 1987 elections.

The Tories raised the record sum of £25 million centrally in 1991-92 and more than £60 million throughout the cycle since 1987. Yet the party emerged with a deficit that has now reached about £13 million. By spending on a huge scale in 1989 and 1990, when it overspent by £9.4 million, the party left itself in a poor position to fight a prolonged campaign. This makes the Tory victory all the more remarkable.

In the previous 1983-7 parliamentary cycle, financial

care during "electoral peacetime" made it possible to concentrate resources on the election. Campaign costs accounted for 28 per cent of Central Office's outlay over the four years up to 1987. But in the 1987-92 period, the campaign accounted for only 15 per cent out of a spending total of £73 million over the whole five years. By contrast, Labour devoted 23 per cent of its 1987-92 outlays of £47 million to the campaign, an increase from 18 per cent in the previous cycle.

The Labour team's determination to focus resources on electioneering meant that 1992 was the first campaign in which its spending has approached that of the Tories.

The central Liberal Democrat campaign cost £1.8 million, including £800,000 during the 18-month pre-election period. Taking account of inflation, this was

about a quarter less than the central efforts of the Alliance in 1987 and just over half of Alliance spending in 1983.

At a local level, where spending by candidates is strictly limited by law, Liberal Democrats lost ground, whereas Labour candidates spent the same, in real terms, as in 1987 and Conservative candidates spent slightly more.

The election accounts give an insight into the strategies of the rival party managers. The pattern of Tory central spending changed radically. In 1987, Central Office devoted 50 per cent of its budget to national press advertising. Mr Patten regarded press advertising on this scale as wasteful, so the proportion fell to only 16 per cent in 1992. Instead, the Tory strategy concentrated on presentation of the party's strongest themes on television, both in party political broadcasts and in television news reports.

Central Office stepped up spending on films for party political broadcasts. Production costs of 14 films amounted to £2.25 million.

PARTY ELECTION SPENDING

	CENTRAL SPENDING (in thousands)		L/Dem	
	Conservative	Labour	1987	1992
Grants to constituencies	137	57	388	1502
Advertising:				
Posters	1834	4000	313	1768
Press	4523	1900	1862	1600
Cinema	—	—	70	—
Total	6357	5900	2175	3338
Producing political broadcast	366	2250	143	688
Opinion research 219	242	148	585	55
Publications 714	730	289	112	18
Leaders' tours and meetings	417	972	403	2984
Staff administration, etc	818	1145	838	1388
Overall totals	9028	11196	4384	10597
Totals at constant April 1992 prices	11400	11196	5500	10597

SPENDING BY PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES					
TOTAL (estimated)	2800	3700	2500	3200	2000
Total at constant April 1992 prices	3500	3700	3150	3200	2000

Spending on posters and on sets for Mr Major's meetings had a similar purpose: to win the television battle and to stir controversy and free publicity

in the news pages of the popular press. The Labour campaign followed, broadly similar lines. Spending on press advertise-

ments was marginally down, while spending on posters rose sharply. The staging of meetings, rallies and leaders' tours cost £3 million, including £1.75 million in the month before the poll.

In Britain, unlike the United States, paid political advertising on television is banned. Yet the influence of television has become so great that British parties are prepared to spend millions of pounds on trying to use their allocations of free time, for election broadcasts, to the greatest effect and on manipulating news reports.

Nevertheless, the ban on paid television advertising has almost certainly helped to contain the costs of national campaigns. Unlike America, where campaign costs continue to soar despite taxpayer subsidies for presidential campaigns, central election spending in Britain is no higher in real terms than in the 1960s and is barely higher than in the pre-war years.

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky is senior lecturer in government at Brunel University.

Maastricht bill

Opposition threatens to turn against treaty

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Cunningham, the shadow foreign secretary, yesterday left open the door for Labour to try to vote down the Maastricht bill when it reaches its final reading next year.

With the bill returning to the Commons tomorrow to begin its committee stage, Dr Cunningham refused to rule out the possibility of Labour MPs again being whipped to vote against the government on Maastricht as they were when John Major came so close to defeat earlier this month.

The government is counting on Labour officially abstaining on the third reading vote, now expected in May, as it did when the bill went before MPs for its second. John Smith would almost certainly face a revolt from Euro-enthusiast

Labour MPs if he decided otherwise. However, interviewed on *Walden* on London Weekend Television, Dr Cunningham insisted that the leadership was keeping its options open.

Meanwhile, John Major will today continue his tour of European capitals as he prepares for the Edinburgh summit the week after next.

Senior ministers made plain yesterday that with the Maastricht bill back in the Commons there was little prospect of the government being able to give way to apparently unanimous pressure for the rest of the EC for Britain's £2 billion budget rebate to be reduced. There were signs, however, that ministers will consider a fresh compromise on the financing of the EC in order to head off opposition of

the four poorer states, Spain, Greece, Portugal and Ireland. This has become even more urgent amid signs that the Spanish government could side with France over the Gatt farm deal in direct retaliation against Britain.

Dr Cunningham said the outcome of the committee stage, when Labour would be tabling important amendments, would determine how the party voted after the third reading. He said there was no prospect of beating the government because it would again be supported by the Liberal Democrats.

It is clear, though, that if Labour were to vote against, the government would rely on Labour rebels to get the bill through with several Tories who back Mr Major last time unlikely to do so again.



Special encounter: Katherine Dart kisses Teddy yesterday at Hamleys in London

House of Fraser defies Sunday trading law

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

CHRISTMAS tills pealed a merry tune yesterday as the House of Fraser abandoned its objection to Sunday trading and opened 52 of its 62 stores in defiance of the discredited 1950 Shops Act.

Although Harrods, its premier emporium, remained closed in recognition of its clientele's traditional retreat to country seats, the company opened department stores from Plymouth to Inverness.

Local authorities, saddled with a law that is difficult to enforce, are not expected to prosecute given the home secretary's announcement last week of proposals to liberalise Sunday trading in England and Wales.

Amid enthusiastic shoppers yesterday at the House of Fraser's DH Evans department store in Oxford Street, London, Fred Bassett, the general manager, said: "It might be murky outside but its good shopping weather. Our decision to open was made in the light of what customers

want, the economic situation and the decisions of our competitors."

The store was one of only three in the group in England to open, between 11am and 5pm, in a successful trial the previous Sunday. Early indications are that trade increased by 30 per cent yesterday. Business at shops throughout the country this Christmas so far is said to be 3 per cent down on last year, but the figure has been dragged down by a 7.6 per cent drop in the sales of consumer durables such as big electrical goods, carpets and furnishings.

Michael Cole, director of public affairs for House of Fraser, said: "We remain roughly in the Keep Sunday Special category. Though we agree the law has to be liberalised, we have no intention of opening every Sunday throughout the year. But we wish to open for the four Sundays before Christmas as a convenience to customers when there is a demand."

Baby and parents die in three-car crash

A Taiwanese family died in a three-car pile-up which killed a total of five people, police said yesterday. Yung Chung Ma, 35, a postgraduate student at Warwick University, his wife K A Yin Kwok, 31, and their one-year-old daughter Esther Ma, of Coventry, died on Saturday when their Volvo was in a head-on collision with a Ford Cortina thought to have been travelling east on the westbound side of the A604 dual carriageway, at the St Ives junction, near Huntington.

The Cortina driver, James Lafferty, 57, of Easton, Cambridgeshire, also died. The fifth victim was Timothy Frost, 20, of Kettering, Northamptonshire, the driver of a Metro which is thought to have hit the wreckage. His passenger, Sally Fox, 18, of Kettering, was in a critical condition in hospital yesterday. Police were trying to discover why the Cortina was travelling the wrong way. Relatives of the Taiwanese were contacted overseas and police hoped to trace family members in Britain.

Four-year-old at college

A boy aged four whose special gifts include speaking French, playing the violin and a near photographic memory is studying at the West London Institute, a college of Brunel University, after his parents found he became bored and frustrated at school. Nicholas MacMahon, who could talk at one and has learnt the Latin names of plants and insects, pre-empting the encyclopedia to playing with toys. He is taking computer lessons at the university after his parents, Alexandra and Peter, contacted a senior lecturer, Mr MacMahon, a gardener in Betchworth, Surrey, said: "He picked up a copy of the highway code and read it all. Now he tells us what all the road signs mean as we drive along."

Rising price of justice

Big fee increases come into force today for those pursuing disputes in the county courts. The rises, which will bring in an extra £55 million for the government, have already come under fire from Labour MP Stephen Byers as making a mockery of the courts charter, published last week. He said the rises exposed the charter as "no more than a public relations exercise at the taxpayers' expense". Many fees have risen by at least a third — that for obtaining a possession warrant, for example, has now doubled to £50.

Tebbit 'wanted to lead'

Lord Tebbit, the former Conservative party chairman, said for the first time yesterday that he once believed that he would be prime minister after Margaret Thatcher, as he was the "natural successor". The former Tory MP for Chingford told BBC Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs*: "The most popular club in politics is the club of ex-Prime ministers, and I eventually realised that I was in that club. I accepted a peerage and that excluded me from being prime minister. But I have a touch of regret..."

Knifepoint car hijack

A woman motorist was forced at knifepoint to drive her Austin Metro for more than an hour across three counties yesterday after a man stopped her car and got in after a stabbing incident in Bournemouth. A policeman who saw the incident gave chase and was joined by officers from both Dorset and Hampshire as the woman was forced to drive through the New Forest. Her ordeal ended when police arrested a man on the outskirts of Salisbury, Wiltshire. Another man was taken to hospital.

Major stands by Lamont

Continued from page 1 costs incurred in evicting my tenant were met from public funds. The decision on whether, and if so to what extent, my legal fees should be met from public funds was taken by the accounting officer in the Treasury, not by myself.

The remainder of the bill was settled by Conservative Party sources, of which I have no knowledge. I am fully satisfied that throughout a clear and correct distinction was maintained between those costs that were incurred as a result of the fact that I held ministerial office, and those that were not."

John Watts, Conservative chairman of the Treasury select committee, said: "Knowing how tight the Treasury is in releasing money for anything, if this was approved within the Treasury, I would imagine there is no question about its propriety."

Howard rules out more cash

By RACHEL KELLY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Howard, the environment secretary, has ruled out any new cash to soften the impact of cuts in local government despite mounting criticism over the weekend as councils worked out the extent to which they would have to reduce services.

But he promised that he would listen to councils' complaints about the proposed distribution of government funds announced last week, and would consider appropriate adjustments.

Speaking on BBC's *On the Record*, Mr Howard said: "That is it in terms of the total amount, but if we have got something wrong in terms of the distribution, then, of course, we will look at the points which councillors make to us."

The government plans to spend £41.6 billion on local government in 1993-4, a quarter of total government spending and an increase of 3.1 per cent on total planned

spending in 1992-3. In practice, many councils will not enjoy rises as they have already spent more than planned in 1992-3. The Association of County Councils calculates that the increase is only 0.4 per cent on budgeted spending.

Among those councils that will have to cut services to keep within the strict guidelines are Tory-led councils in the heart of the South East. A study by the *Local Government Chronicle* identified the Basildon and Welwyn Hatfield districts, both Tory-led, as likely to have to make extensive cuts.

Mr Howard suggested that even well-run councils could make further cuts. He said: "When they look at the figures much more carefully and in more detail and they consider what they have done in previous years, I believe they will come to the conclusion that if they keep within the guidelines and spend their money sensibly, they will be able to

continue the services they have provided."

He said there should be a constant re-examination of the way services were provided to see if they were making the most of competitive tendering and market-testing.

"It would be very remarkable if local authorities are doing absolutely everything they can at this moment to achieve maximum efficiency in the services they provide."

Meanwhile, Labour has predicted that the council tax bills will be much higher than the government estimates. Shadow ministers are going on the offensive as local authorities prepared for next week's release of the valuation of properties for the new charge.

Homeowners will be able to discover from their councils the property band in which their homes have been placed after valuations by estate agents earlier this year. Valuations are at April 1991 prices.



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MADE IN MEDONLSLEY ROAD, CONSETT

'It was reasonable and proper for the government to meet a small proportion of the legal fees'

Lamont's handout for legal fee was okayed by Treasury

By PHILIP WEBSTER,
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

THE use of public money to pay for a government minister's privately incurred legal costs is not covered by the 130 paragraphs of guidance given to ministers about the conduct of their duties when they take up a Whitehall post.

But Sir Peter Middleton, the former permanent secretary at the Treasury, had some ground rules on which to work when Norman Lamont approached him — as the Treasury confirmed last night that he did — on the weekend in April last year when the story broke that a sex therapist was using his London home.

Questions of Procedure for Ministers, which was published last year, suggests that ministers "will want to order their affairs" so that no conflict arises or is thought to arise "between their private interests and their public duties". Ministers with any doubts are advised to consult their permanent secretaries.

Sir Peter, faced with Mr Lamont's request, would have turned to the guidance on these matters given by the Treasury solicitor, with the approval of the law officers. This states that the test of whether a minister may be properly indemnified out of public funds turns on whether the public interest in the conduct of the minister and bears on the performance of his official duties and whether it is in the public interest that legal action should be taken.

Factors to be taken into account include the effect of the attack on the reputation of the person concerned, the likelihood of success in any legal action and the "impact on others if the victim is not supported".

Sir Peter, in applying those rules, was said yesterday to have been satisfied that the original report could have affected the standing in which the Chancellor was held, and that a contribution from public funds could be made. In his

■ Despite guidelines for ministers on the use of public funds, the issue still hinges on interpretations of "the public interest"

statement, the Chancellor said £4,000 plus VAT had been paid to cover initial costs that arose "solely because of my public position as Chancellor of the Exchequer".

"The permanent secretary to the Treasury decided that it was reasonable and proper for the Treasury to meet a small proportion of these fees, some £4,000 plus VAT, covering the initial legal cost of issuing an immediate statement and the subsequent costs of handling press enquiries following reports in the *News of the World*."

"These costs arose solely because of my public position as Chancellor of the Exchequer. None of the costs incurred in evicting my tenant were met from public funds."

"The decision on whether, and if so to what extent, my legal fees should be met from public funds was taken by the accounting officer in the Treasury, not by myself," said Mr Lamont.

The government said yesterday that the rules which had guided Sir Peter were long-standing and had applied under successive administrations.

The Treasury cited two recent precedents in which public money had been paid to ministers: once to Lord Young

of Giffarth in 1989 to deal with allegations of bias arising from his private interests in relation to the House of Fraser affair, and the other to Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor, in relation to proceedings brought against him for remarks made in an interview about Johnson Manby Bankers.

Most of Mr Lamont's legal costs were met by Conservative "party sources". Tory officials declined to say yesterday precisely where the money had come from, although senior MPs suggested that there had always been arrangements to help senior ministers whose reputations could be damaged.

"There is no slush fund, but if the party's reputation is under threat, clearly there is a case for assistance. In this instance the Tory party's principal financial spokesman was in danger of being smirched."

Party officials went out of their way to stress, however, that the money had not been taken from the income raised for the Tories by party activists.

□ Mole-hunters at Access are still trawling computer records to unmask the source of last week's revelations that the Chancellor allegedly had difficulty balancing his domestic accounts (Bill Frost writes).

The investigators are looking for an employee who either leaked Mr Lamont's account details on an opportunistic, perhaps political whim or gave out the information "to order" for money.

There is no doubt that the Chancellor's domestic circumstances had been under the microscope in certain quarters of Fleet Street for some time. Against that background the *NatWest* enquiry must consider the possibility that the Access mole was approached



Focus of debate: Mr Lamont used £4,000 of public funds to evict sex counsellor Sara Dale, left, from his home

by a private detective agency working on behalf of a newspaper or freelance journalist seeking information about Mr Lamont.

Certain detective agencies advertise openly that they can provide detailed financial information on any individual or company. They guarantee to give printouts of bank statements, credit card accounts and confidential, and sometimes compromising,

material. One London agency has provided ex-directory numbers of the great and good to Fleet Street. For about £300, a list of those called by the subscriber is drawn up.

The agencies, some of which are staffed by former MI5 or special branch officers, make use of moles to gather their information. The better-connected contact old security service sources at BT, the banks or the credit card

companies. One source close to the industry said: "Providing the customer has the money, there is no reason why they should not uncover the subject's deepest darkest secret. There is always a way. If you know how. Unless there was a real fear that national security was breached or a life put at risk, they will uncover everything you want and sometimes more."

While conspiracy theorists favour the view that Mr Lamont's dealings with Access were leaked "to order", the investigators cannot yet rule out that the story was fed to Fleet Street on a whim by a politically outraged clerk. If found, the Access mole will face prosecution under the Data Protection Act.

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Middleton: gave his approval for funds

Why it's hard to get by on £63,000

By BILL FROST

TO THE humble wage slave, Norman Lamont boasts a salary and perks beyond imagining. Tabloid leader writers have lost no opportunity to juxtapose the Chancellor's apparent affluence with an alleged inability to balance the domestic books.

Much has been made of the gifts which come with cabinet office: a salary of £63,047 (four times the national average); a limousine "on the firm"; a home in Downing Street and a place in the shires. How could the Chancellor possibly run into trouble with Access?

Why, asked the tabloid leader writers with self-righteous glee, with such a healthy stipend, did he need to accept public money towards the cost of handling press enquiries over the eviction of a "sex therapist" from the basement of the house he owns in Notting Hill, west London?

To some extent the criticism is disingenuous. Although the Chancellor's salary looks

large, political and domestic outgoings can be even greater. Mr Lamont has two children, one of whom attended The King's School, Canterbury, where fees are in the region of £11,000 a year.

The Chancellor has seen the value of his Notting Hill home decline. At the height of the property boom the house could have been worth £500,000. In the present depressed state of the market, he could expect no more than £350,000-£400,000.

According to friends, the Chancellor is generous to a fault. Although his own tastes are relatively modest — he enjoys good food, wine and the occasional small cigar — Mr Lamont has no hesitation in providing hospitality for others, sometimes on a grand scale.

When entertaining in his constituency every weekend, he would be obliged to "buy his round" in the Conservative Club. In addition, the faithful

would expect a generous donation at every fundraising event... after all, the man they sent to Westminster is also the Chancellor of the Exchequer and enjoys an enviable high salary.

For others in the cabinet, the cost of keeping up political appearances is more easily borne. While "old money" has largely disappeared from the government front bench under John Major, a number of ministers have high-earning wives to help them pay the bills.

In any event, Mr Lamont's needs are reportedly less than lavish. Ornithology comes close to the top of the Chancellor's extra-curricular enthusiasms. He requires only binoculars, stout shoes and warm clothing for nocturnal forays into the woodland surrounding his country home.

Had Mr Lamont stayed in merchant banking, he could have afforded a considerably more affluent lifestyle than a

cabinet minister's salary allows. As he contemplated yesterday's hostile press, Mr Lamont might have recalled remarks made by Lord Gowrie, the former arts minister, in his resignation in 1985 he said that he could no longer afford to live in central London on a government salary.

Not every former minister found life in high office so difficult. Lord Healey, Chancellor in the last Labour government, said yesterday that he managed to make ends meet "perfectly well" while living at No 11.

"I never had a credit card while I was Chancellor and got by perfectly well. Mr Lamont's salary is about five times what the average person earns, and they have to make do. As for entertaining, he should just behave like an ordinary chap. Certainly he has to buy his round, but those he's drinking with buy one too."

Colourful outback artist dies, aged 75

By JOHN YOUNG

SIR Sidney Nolan, the Australian painter who died during the weekend, aged 75, will be best remembered for his works depicting the exploits of the 19th-century outlaw Ned Kelly. His star, which shone so brightly in the 1950s and the 1960s, had been largely eclipsed over the past 20 years.

Sir Sidney, the son of a Melbourne tram driver and grandson of one of the policemen who pursued Kelly across the outback, left school at 14 and began work as a poster painter for a hat manufacturer. He was "discovered" by the historian Kenneth Clark (later Lord Clark) on a visit to Sydney in 1949 and was persuaded to come to London.

His vivid depictions of the harsh colours of the Australian bush and the symbolism of the outlaw defying authority found a ready market and were bought by the Tate Gallery and the Queen.

When he turned to more sombre themes, such as *Leda* and the swan and the Shakespearean sonnets, opinion became more divided. One critic described the *Leda* paintings as "among the greatest things produced in recent years", but others accused him of abandoning his natural talent.

The decline in his reputation may be said to date from the mid-1970s, with a series of paintings on the Oedipus theme which be-came admirers and were described by one critic as an "unmitigated disaster".

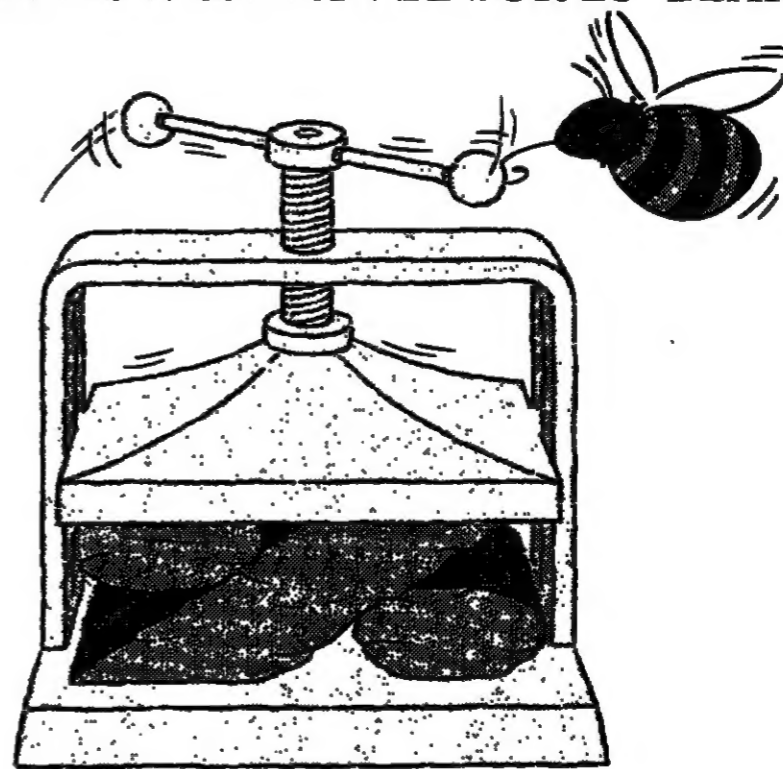
Sir Sidney was an abrasive man, who said of his critics a few weeks ago that they could go to hell. After the suicide of his first wife in 1974, he pursued a long vendetta against his one-time friend, the author Patrick White, who accused him of responsibility for her death.

Obituary, page 19



Vivid imagery: Sir Sidney's Head of a Warrior

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Ulster's b
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By HARVEY E

SMAGLEN, the town of 1,500 people in the county of Down, is known for its traditional industry, mainly in the form of small, family-run businesses. The town is situated on the banks of the River Donaghadee, which flows into the sea. The town is a beautiful example of a traditional Irish town, with its narrow streets and white-washed buildings. The town is a popular destination for tourists, who come to enjoy the scenery and the friendly atmosphere. The town is also known for its traditional music and dance, which is performed in the town's pubs and clubs. The town is a wonderful place to visit, and it is a great example of a traditional Irish town.

Nepal an

By TONY DAVE

RATIVES and friends of the late Prime Minister of Nepal, B.P. Koirala, are planning to hold a memorial service for him in Nepal. The service is scheduled for next month, and it is expected to be a large and significant event. The Prime Minister died in London last year, and his death was a major loss to Nepal. The service will be held in the capital, Kathmandu, and it is expected that many people will attend. The service is a testament to the Prime Minister's legacy and the respect he commanded in his country. It is a chance for the people of Nepal to pay tribute to their former leader and to reflect on his contributions to the country.

'Rainbow' coalition faces tough task

Labour fires first salvo on Irish privatisation

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

DICK Spring, the Irish Labour leader, fired the first salvo yesterday in what will be an exceptionally tough round of post-election negotiations to try to form a new coalition government.

Mr Spring, who now has 33 TDs in the new Dáil compared with 16 before last week's election, said his party had no intention of participating in any government committed to privatisation in any form.

In a clear signal to his most likely coalition partners, Fine Gael and the Progressive Democrats — both parties of the right — Mr Spring said the experience of privatisation under Margaret Thatcher in Britain had only reinforced his fundamental opposition to it.

"I do not accept [that privatisation] has any contribution to make to the economic good-

will of this country," he said at his home in Tralee. "I am going to defend ... public-sector jobs and a strong role for public-sector companies in this country."

The extent of the ideological divide with the Democrats in particular was quickly underlined by Mary Harney, a leading figure in the party, who issued her own warning about Labour's ambitious plans to increase Exchequer borrowing by £350 million next year in an attempt to create new jobs. Ms Harney said the Democrats "certainly would not participate in a government if borrowing was to increase".

Mr Spring has no illusions about the difficulties. He has already said he is not sure if a new government will be ready by the time the Dáil reconvenes to elect the Taoiseach

on December 14, and an extra week at least may be required.

Apart from the key economic differences between Labour, Fine Gael and the PDs, there will also be the question of who leads the government, since both Mr Spring and John Bruton, the Fine Gael leader, believe they have a right to be prime minister.

The so-called rainbow, or three-party, coalition is not the only possibility for government in the new Dáil, but it is now widely accepted that those parties are going to have the first attempt at putting an administration together. The option for Labour of trying to remain in opposition looks increasingly difficult to justify given the huge increase in its share of the vote. An opinion poll yesterday indicated that more than 80 per cent of Labour voters now wanted the party to go into government.

The shift in the political balance in Ireland has been openly acknowledged by Fianna Fáil and its leader Albert Reynolds, who remains Taoiseach and will continue in a caretaker role through the EC summit in Edinburgh until the new government is formed.

After a cabinet meeting on Saturday to consider his party's woe-filled performance, Mr Reynolds said: "At this stage the political reality of the election results would indicate that the matter rests with others."

Mr Reynolds's future as leader of the party is now in doubt. Fianna Fáil lost 10 seats and saw its share of the vote fall to 39.1 per cent, the lowest since 1927. A number of senior ministers including Bertie Ahern, finance, and David Andrews, foreign affairs, both of whom are candidates to succeed Mr Reynolds, are known to be keen on the party going into opposition. One former minister described this as offering Fianna Fáil a chance for a much-needed "refresher course".

Counting in one seat in Dublin South Central continued yesterday. Excluding that, the distribution is Fianna Fáil 67 seats, Fine Gael 45, Labour 33, Progressive Democrats 10, Democratic Left 4, Green Party 1 and Independents 5. Sinn Féin's total vote was less than 30,000 and 40 of its 42 candidates lost their deposits.

FOR the first time in its independent history, Ireland will have an Asian member of parliament when the Dáil reconvenes in two weeks (Edward Gorman writes).

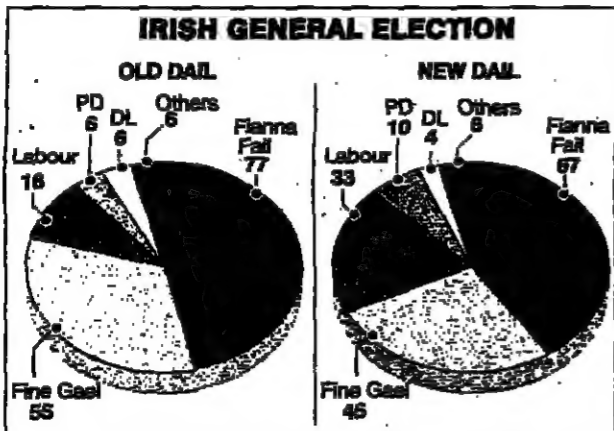
Moonjee Bhamjee, 45, a consultant psychiatrist based at Our Lady's Hospital in Ennis, Co. Clare, also distinguished himself by becoming the first Labour candidate returned in the west of Ireland constituency since 1951.

Dr Bhamjee, who was born in South Africa but whose family is originally from Bombay, stunned even his own party colleagues. He has never stood for election to his local council and joined Labour only two years ago. He

puts his success down to the desire among people from all walks of life for a change from the old politics of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael.

"We came across the same problems over the whole country in urban and rural areas," he said. "People wanted change and they saw the Labour party and myself as the alternative."

Dr Bhamjee will devote much of his energy in the Dáil to highlighting problems within the health service in his home county and to unemployment and emigration. He has for some years appeared on local radio offering people advice in his capacity as a psychiatrist.



Ulster's badlands develop a good name with tourists

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

CROSSMAGLEN, the town at the heart of south Armagh's "bandit country", is rapidly becoming known around the world for its tourist industry. Golf courses, pubs, restaurants and theatres are springing up and attracting thousands of visitors from America, France, Italy and Japan.

During the weekend, the prestigious catering prize in the Northern Ireland tourism awards went to a restaurant and folk centre developed in a derelict farm cottage a few hundred yards from a heavily fortified army base at Crossmaglen. "It is so unspoilt around here at the moment," Tony Healy, its developer, said. "I just hope that all the tourist development now taking place does not ruin it."

The Northern Ireland Tourist Board is delighted at the influx of visitors that has reached 1.4 million a year, with a 22 per cent increase in the number coming from North America and a 14 per

cent increase from Britain. Using grants totalling £20 million a year from the European Community and the mainly American-based International Fund for Ireland, it hopes to double the number of people employed in tourism within the next three years.

Old stone cottages are being converted into weekend retreats, a helicopter company has set up a "round the six counties" service from Newtownards and fishermen, folk musicians and game shooters are booking short trips in increasing numbers. No one in the tourist board will admit it officially, but many of the foreign visitors are almost ghoulishly anxious to see the areas that have become so well known for violence. Tour operators in Belfast take guided minibus tours around the Falls Road, Shankill, Divis Flats and the Maze prison.

An internal report by the board, which identified this "curiosity" value of tourism,

was seized upon by politicians of both sides, who accused them of trading in terrorism. "We have to accept the situation as it is," Hugh O'Neill, the board chairman said. "Now we are trying to explain that Northern Ireland has many other unspoilt attractions, and it seems to be working. Within the next three years I believe we can have an additional 10,000 jobs in the province to cater for the flow of tourists."

Officials are worried that terrorist groups may target tourist centres if they become too successful. They are also anxious to convince businessmen from Britain to spend at least one night in the country rather than catch the regular shuttle flights back to London.

The board is working closely with the Irish republic's tourist industry to persuade visitors, especially from America, to make the trip north. A Northern Irish tourism office has opened in Dublin.

Nepal air crash relatives hit at FO

By TONY DAWE

RELATIVES and friends of the 35 Britons who died in the Nepal air crash two months ago criticised the Foreign Office and a company of international undertakers yesterday for lack of information about the identification of victims and plans for a mass funeral.

Some who had expected to travel to Kathmandu for the funeral this week have yet to be told officially that it has been postponed until some time next year. They have accused all the agencies involved of "passing the buck" over their responsibilities.

This further distress for relatives follows meetings with lawyers last week which made it clear that little compensation will be available from Pakistan International Airlines, on whose flight the passengers were travelling. One solicitor plans to appeal to PIA to follow the recent example of Japanese airlines and waive compensation limits.

Sixty-four of the 167 passengers and

crew who died when the Airbus crashed into a hilltop on approach to Kathmandu airport have been identified. They include 19 Britons, most of whom have been flown home for burial, although Andrew and Helen Wilkins and their three small children, who had been sent out by a Christian mission to conduct aid work, were buried in Nepal.

Dawn Statham, whose daughter Cathy has not been identified, planned to fly to Kathmandu with her husband this week. "We have not been told by officials that the funeral has been postponed. We have found out by hearsay," Mrs Statham, of Northallerton, North Yorkshire, said. "I have spoken to the Foreign Office and suggested it is their responsibility to keep us informed."

Mrs Statham said that when she made enquiries about her daughter being identified with Kenyan Emergency Services, the London international undertakers handling the identification of victims, the firm asked if she had any

further information about her daughter to assist its staff. But the company was unable to specify exactly what information it required.

Andy Broom, a close friend and business partner in Sheffield of Mark Miller, a leading mountaineer who died on the flight, said: "Sadly, criticism of the Foreign Office is all too common in these circumstances. But we are also annoyed at Kenyan. Mark's girlfriend went to Kathmandu after the accident and asked to claim his belongings but was told that was impossible. A member of Kenyan's staff in London has now said she should have claimed the possessions in Nepal but it is too late now as they have been destroyed."

The Foreign Office yesterday said Kenyan was dealing with identification and the mass funeral. The company said it was acting on behalf of PIA. The airline blamed the Nepalese authorities for delays over the funeral. Kenyan said its chief executive had returned to Nepal to try to sort out difficulties.



Wreckage: the remains of the Metro driven by Elizabeth Arnold, below, after it collided with a train

Father tells of fatal rail crash

THE father of a teenage driver killed when her car hit a train on a level crossing told yesterday how he found her body. Dr Peter Arnold, a physics researcher at Surrey University, had gone looking for his daughter Elizabeth, 17, after she failed to turn up at a gymnastics class.

It is believed that Miss Arnold, who had passed her driving test a week earlier, had been blinded by sunlight

and had failed to see the warning lights on the crossing at Wokingham, Berkshire. Her car collided with the train and was carried down the track.

Dr Arnold, of Wokingham, said: "Lizzy had left home in good time to get to the gym club ... It's a journey that only takes five minutes but about half an hour later, when she hadn't arrived, they phoned us. I

got in my car and went to look for her. When I got to the crossing I found the police and paramedics at the scene and I saw Lizzy's car. 'I still can't believe it. She had such a great love of life. She was doing very well at school and had a great future ahead of her.'"

Miss Arnold was studying for her A levels and had been offered places at five universities to read biology.



Low Aids figures give hope

By OUR HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE rate of heterosexually acquired Aids in Britain is one of the lowest in Europe, according to the latest figures. They show that the epidemic's progress is slower here than in most European countries.

Up to last September, 600 men and women had caught Aids as a result of heterosexual intercourse, of whom 544 had partners who were bisexual, came from abroad, or were injecting drugs. The rate, at under 10 cases per million population, is less than a quarter of that in France and less than a fifth of that in Belgium. It is "one of the lowest in the European Community", according to the latest Communicable Disease Report published by the Public Health Laboratory Service to mark World Aids day tomorrow.

Britain also has one of the lowest rates of Aids among injecting drug users, at under five cases per million population compared with 240 per million in Spain, 156 in Italy and 77 in France.

Overall, Britain's rate of Aids cases at 10.68 per 100,000 population — a total of 6,555 cases — is better than many other European countries. In northern and western Europe most cases have been in homosexual and bisexual men, while in southern Europe, where there is more drug abuse, most cases result from sharing needles.

However, the World Health Organisation has warned that the figures for Aids understate the true extent of the crisis because they relate to infections that took place ten or more years ago. Even if all infections were to stop immediately, the present total of 66,500 cases of Aids in Europe would grow to 400,000 as infected individuals developed the disease.

Leading article, page 17

Private ambulances criticised by union

By JEREMY LAURANCE

BRITAIN'S first private emergency ambulance service is launched in London today to protests from Labour and health service unions, who say it will further undermine the beleaguered London Ambulance Service.

The private service, modelled on similar ones in the US, will provide emergency cover to subscribers within London and the Home Counties and has a fleet of 14 ambulances and ten back-up vehicles.

Subscribing callers are promised an answer within 15 seconds but response times for the ambulances are not guaranteed.

Richard Sage, of Belmont Medicover, which claims 1,000 subscribers are paying £35 a year for individual cover and £65 for family cover, said the service aimed for a 20-minute response time.

The London Ambulance Service has been criticised for slow response times and unanswered calls after the breakdown of its computer system and is now the subject of an enquiry. David Blunkett, Labour's health spokesman, said he would be asking Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, to explain the legal status of the service. Stewart Barber, of the National Union of Public Employees, said the move would introduce a two-tier emergency service and undermine the London Ambulance Service enquiry.

Britain's ethnic population tops 3m

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S ethnic community has risen above three million people, which is 380,000 more than previous estimates, according to a detailed study of the 1991 census published today. People from ethnic communities make up 5.5 per cent of the total British population of 54.8 million, with 840,000 Indians forming the single largest group, 499,000

Caribbeans, 475,000 Pakistanis, 207,000 black Africans, 160,000 Bangladeshis and 157,500 Chinese.

The study is based on the first census to include a question on ethnic status, designed to provide policy-makers with a much more accurate figure on the size and composition of Britain's black, Asian

and Chinese communities. According to earlier government surveys, the ethnic community was estimated to be 2.6 million.

Black and Asian communities are concentrated in southeast England and the West Midlands, according to the study, which also found that in 29 local authority areas ethnic minorities accounted for more than 15 per cent of the population. They continue to be concentrated in poorer inner-city and traditional manufacturing areas.

David Owen, research fellow at the Centre for Ethnic Relations at Warwick University, said: "The overall figures are higher than we had expected and we

estimated that the size of the ethnic minority population has risen by 1.3 per cent in the ten years to 1991."

Almost 45 per cent of the ethnic population lives in Greater London compared with only 10.3 per cent of the country's white population. In the West Midlands, the Birmingham City Council area is home to 206,000 people from ethnic minority groups, the largest figure for any local authority.

Dr Owen said: "There is as yet little evidence that the geographical distribution of the ethnic minority community is changing. The areas where they were living in 1991 remain much the same as they were a decade earlier."

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هكذا من الأصل

Craftsmen relish one of the biggest professional challenges of their lives

Architects begin planning Windsor Castle restoration

BY ALAN HAMILTON

BARELY a week after the Windsor Castle fire, preliminary work has started on a restoration project expected to require many traditional skills of the highest quality.

Architects surveying the wreckage are convinced that there are more than enough craftsmen in Britain ready to take on one of the biggest challenges of their professional lives. Workmen are on site preparing to erect a metal canopy that will act as a temporary roof over the north-east corner of the Upper Quadrangle. Any further penetration by water or frost will seriously weaken the damaged outer masonry walls, which were splintered by the heat.

Equally urgent is the rescue of an important piece of exterior stonework that is in imminent danger of collapsing on to the east terrace. The wall above the bay window of the Crimson Drawing Room was so damaged that it may tumble at any time. Contractors are erecting scaffolding to

Experts will have no difficulty finding enough highly skilled British workers to restore Windsor Castle to glory

keep it in place. Experts from English Heritage moved in last week as soon as the fire had been doused to sift through the charred debris, which is 6ft deep in places and was the result of the collapse of roof, ceilings and floors in what was St George's Hall. They will search for any recoverable piece of the internal fittings or decoration that might be rescued or copied.

A preliminary survey shows that the ornate plaster of the banqueting hall, fashioned and painted to look like a beamed wooden ceiling, is almost totally lost, but in the Grand Reception Room, once a showpiece of the lavish Louis XV style, about 20 per cent of its decorative plaster ceiling may be recoverable. The Grinling Gibbons woodcarvings which graced the walls of St George's Hall appear to

have survived intact, if somewhat blackened.

John Thornycroft, advisory architect on Crown buildings and monuments for English Heritage, says that the main challenge of restoration will be high-quality plasterwork. Specialists from as far away as Eastern Europe, including a Polish team which restores the baroque palaces of the old imperial east, have registered interest, but Mr Thornycroft believes there will be no need to go outside Britain. "The current fashion for neo-classical building has meant a resurgence of demand for the skills of fine plastering. We should have no trouble in finding top-grade home-grown craftsmen."

Grenville Welch, of the Federation of Plasterers, says that his member companies have recently completed high-quality

contracts, including ceilings, at the Dorchester and Langham Hilton hotels in London, 10 Downing Street, Kensington Palace and the Assembly Rooms in Bath.

The Windsor Castle project will require the skills of carpenters, gilders, mirror restorers, picture conservators, decorators and, if a decision is taken to rebuild the damaged organ in the private chapel, organ builders.

Contracts for the work will not be given for some time, until the experts decide exactly how the apartments should be restored. Internal restoration is unlikely to start for several years. A proper roof must be built, the building must be allowed to dry out thoroughly from the firefighters' water, and hundreds of tons of charred debris have to be examined and sorted.

However, specialist companies are already writing letters of interest to the royal household. Many learnt much from the restoration of Hampton Court after the fire there in 1986.



Fine art: Valentine Walsh, a conservator, puts her talent to work at her studio near Westminster Bridge, London.

National heritage will be in safe hands

BY JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

DAVID Hayles is a master plasterer for Hayles and Howe, a Bristol company which specialises in ornamental plastering. The firm helped restore Midsomer Norton Abbey after it burnt down in 1985 and has won three awards from the Royal Institute of British Architects. After studying architecture at Bristol University, Mr Hayles, 46, became a plasterer with no formal training in the 1960s because "there weren't many people doing ornamental plastering then."

"I taught myself and everyone in the firm has been taught by me," he said. "It's a question of trial and error. Some work we did with some Arabs helped us, because they wanted a room done in an Egyptian style. We had to look up the kind of designs they wanted in books and then remodel whatever was required."

David Ashton and his twin brother, Colin, have both been joiners with James Longley and Co in Crawley, Sussex, since they left school in 1976. They worked on the restoration of Hampton Court after the fire there. David said: "You learn a lot of your craft from the older joiners; you have to work with them and learn your skills that way. I'm still learning now."

Patricia Jackson is "probably the only mirror conservator in the country". After the 1986 fire, she restored the mirrors at Hampton Court by

piecing the shattered glass back together. "People don't notice that I've stuck the glass back together. They don't think broken mirrors can be mended," she said.

After a fine arts degree, she did an apprenticeship at the British Museum in archaeological conservation, and went on to specialise in ceramics and glass.

Valentine Walsh, 39, is a picture restorer but prefers to be called a conservator. She took a degree in chemistry and art history in Anglia, then did an apprenticeship with a top museum restorer in London. She analyses the

layers of paintings, rebouches paint or sticks it back down, and sometimes transfers paintings to new canvases. "The most important thing is to be humble and make sure your work is reversible."

Dick Reid has the largest wood and stone carving studio in the country. Based in York, his studio has worked on the restoration of scores of historical buildings, including Westminster Abbey and the Tower of London. "We design the wood and stone, doing asymmetric patterns and would have difficulty drawing a straight line. If you are an artist and have a burning fire in your belly to do this, you will acquire the necessary manual dexterity."



Twin effort: expert joiners David and Colin Ashton

Prince of Wales urged to chair committee

BY JOHN YOUNG

A REPORT by Berkshire Fire Brigade officers on the Windsor blaze is expected to be presented to the Queen today. It may end speculation about the cause of the fire and answer queries on the effectiveness of safety measures at the castle.

The debate is likely to continue, however, on how the damaged areas should be restored and under whose direction. The argument is between those who want to

however, that decisions may be made too hastily. Marcus Binney, president of Save Britain's Heritage, suggested yesterday that a committee should be set up under the chairmanship of the Prince of Wales to consider the options. "Too many doctrinaire solutions are being put forward," he said. "It is far too early to start talking about an architectural competition before we have made a proper archaeological assessment of what is already there."

The latest theory on how the fire started — reported in *The Observer* — identifies a spotlight left on in the Queen's private chapel, and suggests that it set fire to a curtain.

Stewart Kidd, director of the Fire Protection Association, who chaired a working party two years ago on fire prevention in historic buildings, said at the weekend that damage could have been greatly reduced if its recommendations had been followed at Windsor, including the installation of sprinklers.

There is a growing fear, see the rooms restored exactly, and those who want to add a 20th-century contribution to the building.

The national heritage department, which will fund the restoration, is believed to favour a "state of the art" approach allowing the work of the best modern architects to be seen by future generations, rather than a "pastiche" of earlier architectural fashions.

There is a growing fear,

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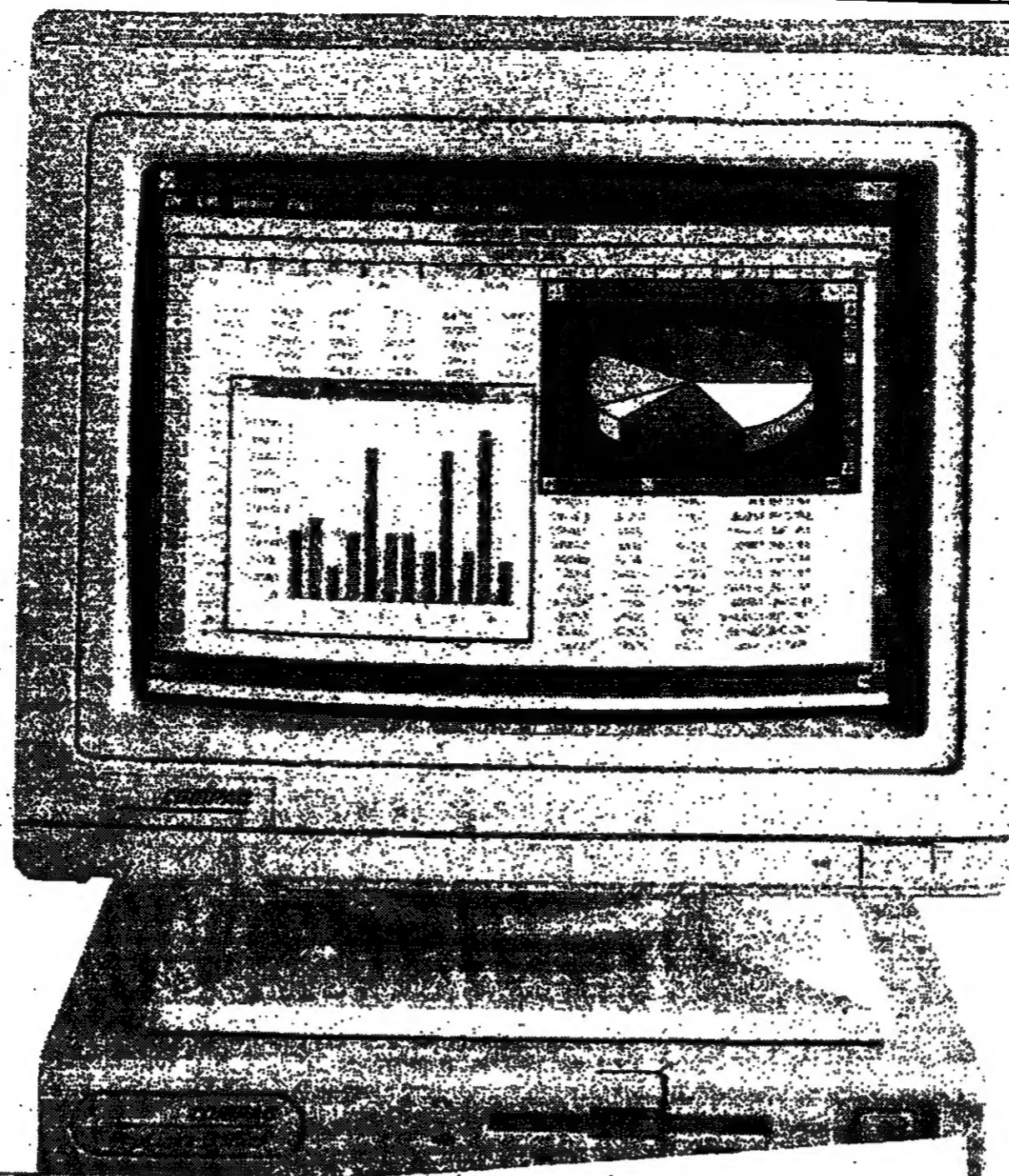
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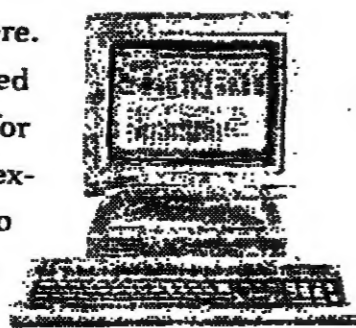
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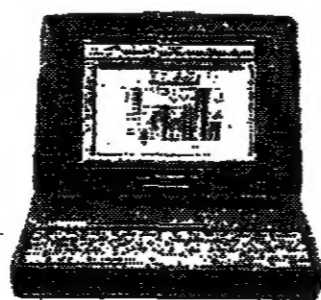


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مكتبة الأمل

EC calls for more training to improve UK economy

FROM IAN MURRAY
IN BRUSSELS

TRAIN
FOR
GROWTH

A LONG history of bad industrial training and even worse labour relations are the only reasons Britain has a case for its controversial European Community budget rebate, according to Vasso Papandreou, the EC commissioner for social policy. Between them, she told *The Times*, they have ruined the British economy.

Mrs Papandreou quoted research showing that skill differences alone accounted for 55 per cent of the difference in productivity between Germany and Britain. While every EC member had to be allowed to develop its own training methods, they should also be prepared to learn from each other, she said. Britain, in particular, needed to invest much more in training skills.

"Britain was a very big power and now it is trailing behind the Community. It is said that you are eighth in per capita income among the 12 countries of the Community."

Britain insists on keeping its controversial £2 billion annual rebate because it is the second-largest contributor to the EC budget, even though it is poorer than seven of its partners. With poorer Mediterranean countries seeking extra EC money to help boost their economies, Britain is now under the strongest pressure to give up the rebate, which was promised by Margaret Thatcher in 1984. The row over this is one of the more difficult issues threatening to ruin John Major's chances of turning next month's EC summit in Edinburgh into a success.

"Britain is near the bottom of the Community table," Mrs Papandreou said. "I do hope that you will reverse this situation because we don't need more countries looking for help from the EC social fund, especially with the reduced Community budget that is proposed by the UK."

Mrs Papandreou said the problems of bad labour rela-

■ The Times examines UK training as it comes under fire at home and abroad

tions and inadequate training had "deep roots". The way that industry does not co-operate with the training institutions, the way it has not planned ahead, the lack of co-operation between the social partners: all these issues are very much related to the lack of, or low skills in the UK.

"It is difficult to have figures to show how much is spent on training but I think it is safe to say that Britain is not among the highest spenders. On the contrary, the amount of money that is spent there on training is relatively less than it is in other countries that are more successful."

Overall she said Britain had "a very negative attitude towards all the social issues" and was one of the countries that always tried to water down EC proposals aimed at improving social affairs. She accepted, however, that there were signs of change. "They have started to realise that the unions exist and even the CBI has started to realise that dialogue with a union is not something that should be prohibited but, on the contrary, is sometimes helpful."

She was cautious about initiatives in Britain to certify skills through new National Vocational Qualifications and to direct training through local Training and Enterprise Councils. She said she was not sure whether the schemes would succeed, but was convinced Britain's only way out of recession was to improve training standards.

Letters, page 17



True mettle: Claire Martin, 18, is one of six girls in Britain learning farriery — where unemployment is unknown

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A cast-iron job chance

THE traditional image of the blacksmith as a muscle-bound simpleton wielding a hammer is being beaten into a gentler shape in a Cambridgeshire forge by Claire Martin, 18, one of six girls in Britain learning the ancient skills of farriery.

Claire is in the second year of a four-year apprenticeship which includes on-the-job training in the Newmarket smithy of Simon Curtis, a fourth-generation master farrier whose family has specialised in putting shoes on race horses for more than 100 years.

During the course Claire will also spend 27 weeks at the School of Farriery in Hereford, run by the engineering department of Herefordshire College of Technology, studying metal-working,

equine anatomy, veterinary science and small business management.

Tuition fees and lodging while at the school are met by a Youth Training scheme grant from the Hereford and Worcester Training and Enterprise Council (Hawtec). The exact level of funding has to be negotiated each year, but will run to about £6,500 in all.

At the end of the course Claire will sit an exam set by The Worshipful Company of Farriers, founded in 1356, and if she passes will obtain a diploma enabling her to practise as one of Britain's 2,150

registered horse-smiths. The trainee who stays the course is virtually guaranteed a job. An apprentice earns £3,500 a year rising to £7,000 in the fourth year.

"There is no such thing as an unemployed farrier," Mr Curtis said. "Horse-racing, which gives us 90 per cent of our business in Newmarket, is going through a lean time, but there is plenty of work. Even a ban on fox-hunting, if that comes, won't be disastrous. People aren't going to shoot their horses. They will use them for other things."

Claire is so confident about her prospects that her father, an aircraft engineer, has already applied for planning permission to build a forge in a field at the family home at Swanton Morley in Norfolk. "As a child I had my own pony and watched the farriers at work when we called them out. I wanted to be a farrier from the age of 11," she said.

Opposition attacks 'waste of a generation'

By NICHOLAS WATT

A GENERATION of young people is being wasted with no chance of a job and little hope of training, says Tony Lloyd, Labour employment spokesman.

The government had cut spending so drastically that a quarter of young people could not find a supposedly guaranteed Youth Training place, he said yesterday. Hundreds of thousands in the 16-25 age group were growing up unemployed and without skills.

"This is such a waste. That generation should be the life-

blood of the future and should be in employment for the next 40 years. Failing to train them makes a mockery of the government's boasts about training."

Labour would improve the quality of training, but Mr Lloyd would not say whether this meant cutting places. "We would change the emphasis from a system that massages the figures to one of quality. Training should not be about getting as many people on schemes as possible."

The government's £2.8 billion training budget would be increased, though Mr Lloyd

would not disclose figures. "We can't say how much we would spend because we do not know what unemployment levels will be."

Mr Lloyd said the three per cent cut in the government's training budget announced in this month's Autumn Statement hid a much sharper drop.

"The government's boast about spending £2.8 billion on training sounds impressive. But that is paltry when the number of unemployed is rising, forcing the government to dilute the quality of training. This year only 27 per cent of people on

Employment Training achieved a qualification, compared with 30 per cent last year."

The employment department's budget paled in comparison with the amount of money spent on maintaining the unemployed. "Gillian Shepherd, the employment secretary, has said that it costs £9,000 a year for every unemployed person in benefits and lost taxation," Mr Lloyd said.

"It costs many billions to maintain the unemployed, which puts into context the £2.8 billion spent on training."

Labour to consider university tuition fees

By JOHN O'LEARY

UP TO a fifth of university students would pay tuition fees under a Labour front-bench spokesman's plan for affluent families to finance expansion in higher education.

The scheme, put forward in a weekend speech by Jeff Rooker, Labour's higher education spokesman, would reverse the party's traditional support for free tuition on full-time university courses. No party has dared to tamper with the system since Lord Joseph was forced to withdraw a reform package in the early 1980s.

University vice-chancellors have tried without success to persuade the government to take an initiative on "top up" fees. Successive education secretaries have told the universities that they are free to levy extra fees, but have refused to endorse the change.

University College London and the London School of Economics have considered the introduction of private fees, but decided against a switch. However, a settlement in this month's Autumn Statement that will clamp many universities' expansion plans, is certain to bring renewed pressure for a rethink by ministers. Budgets for 1993-4 assume that makes of new students are held to this year's levels.

Mr Rooker has placed the issue on Labour's agenda because he fears that the widening of access to higher education will be halted unless a new source of funding is found for universities. He told members of the Socialist Educational Association in Staffordshire that "equity demanded a 'contribution from the wealthy' to be considered."

More than a quarter of full-time university students are already denied maintenance grants because their parents earn too much for them to qualify. However, their fees of between £1,885 and £2,770 are paid by the state.

Mr Rooker said that details of his proposal were still being worked out, but families at the margin of grant payments would not be required to pay fees.

Education Times, page 33

Smoke-free bonus for motorists

Drivers who do not smoke will be eligible for cheaper car insurance, according to the Institute of Insurance Brokers, which says research shows that smokers are twice as likely to crash than non-smokers. Even seasonal motorists who smoke have double the number of accidents of non-smokers.

Plans are being prepared to introduce a 12.5 per cent discount on insurance for drivers who sign a pledge that they do not smoke. The findings are based on studies in the United States and Canada, where experts say smoking while driving is a distraction while driving, while coughing fits and fumbling for a cigarette can also cause people to lose control.

Wigs away

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, says judges' courtroom dress may have contributed to the belief that the judiciary is out of touch. He has offered to do away with his wigs and called on his senior colleagues to discard their "self-imposed isolation".

Queen's card

The Queen Mother has sent Desert Orchid a get-well card, one of hundreds that have arrived for the racehorse, which is recovering from abdominal surgery last week. Most were addressed to "Desert Orchid, Newmarket", but have found their way to the equine intensive care unit, where Dessie is doing well.

Nazi graffiti

A German tourist had his Volkswagen Golf dented with swastikas and the word Nazi in Buckingham, Buckinghamshire, Patrick Leisan, 20, from Hamburg, returned from an evening out to find his car covered in green spray paint. The vehicle has German number plates.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly Premium Bond draw are £100,000, number 19XK 254908 (winner lives in Exeter, holding £1,320); £50,000, 27HN 895196 (Lincoln, £10,000); £25,000, 10KS 493923 (Cheltenham, £819).

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£10,000-£24,999	5.80%	4.35%
£5,000-£9,999	5.25%	3.94%
£1,000-£4,999	4.90%	3.68%

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£10,000-£24,999	6.35%	4.76%
£5,000-£9,999	5.30%	3.98%
£1,000-£4,999	5.00%	3.75%

Cash Builder	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£25,000 and over	6.20%	4.65%
£10,000-£24,999	5.50%	4.13%
£5,000-£9,999	5.10%	3.83%
£2,000-£4,999	4.90%	3.68%
£1,000-£1,999	4.00%	3.00%
£1-£999	1.50%	1.13%

Smart 2 Save	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£1-£499	3.00%	2.25%

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£10,000 and over	7.80%	5.85%

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Hunt may approve Welsh riverbank waste site despite fear of toxic leaks

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY

THE government is preparing to overrule objections from water companies in Wales and England and allow a waste tip on the banks of a river supplying water to more than two million people, even though the tip will eventually produce toxic liquid waste, probably for many years.

David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, said he was "mindful" to overrule Cwyd County Council and allow Britain's biggest waste disposal company, Shanks and McEwan, to site the tip on the banks of the River Dee at Pen-y-bont near Chirk. The river is one of Britain's premier salmon rivers and daily supplies drinking water to four water companies downstream.

His intention was described by Friends of the Earth as "mortgaging the future for water consumers." It goes against the stated wishes of 11 local authorities, eight angling associations, at least six environmental or countryside pressure groups and more than a thousand individuals, besides the four water companies concerned.

The tip, in an old clay pit in a loop of the river, is intended to receive nearly two million tons of industrial, commercial and household waste, which will produce thousands of gallons of highly toxic effluent, known as leachate, as it rots.

The four water companies, Welsh Water, North West Water, and the smaller Wrexham and Chester companies, draw over three quarters of a million litres a day from the river for 2.223,000 customers in North Wales, Merseyside and the North West.

They vigorously objected to Shanks and McEwan's plan at a public enquiry last year, on the grounds that the leachate, which will be produced for decades after the five years it will take for the tip to fill, might eventually seep into the

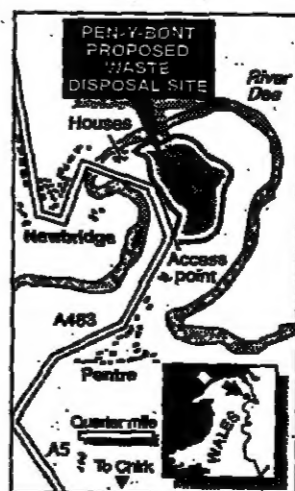
river and pollute it. The site, they said, was "wholly unsuitable". The enquiry was held after Cwyd County Council refused the company planning permission for the tip on the same grounds, and Shanks and McEwan appealed.

Mr Hunt is now backing the enquiry inspector, Mr D.L. Robins, who, with the National Rivers Authority, accepted the company's assurances that the design of the tip, with an engineered clay lining

3ft thick and a gradient sloping away from the river, would make any risk of pollution minimal. The water companies' objection, Mr Robins said in his report, was "subjective".

Before giving his final decision, the Welsh secretary is believed to be waiting for an agreement between Shanks and McEwan and Cwyd, committing the company to monitoring and removing the leachate for perhaps 30 years or more after it is filled by waste. But his basic intention to grant permission has been made clear in a letter sent to the company from the Welsh Office.

"It is a short-sighted decision, and it is just creating a dangerous legacy for the future," said Stuart Howarth, managing director of Wrexham Water. But Michael Philpott, technical director of Shanks and McEwan's waste services division, said the engineering of the tip would make the risk of polluting the river "so minute as to be insignificant". The company had put together a careful design that met all the containment requirements, he said.



The way it isn't



Jeffrey Bernard is hoist on his own petard. When life starts to look bright, he's left with nothing to write.

Jeremy Beadle Gets on my needle. I make sure I'm out when Beadle's about.

Enoch Powell Would never call a spade a trowel. For him, nothing could be more rude.

Than etymological inexactitude.

Michael Palin Enjoys rather plain sailing. If he's not quite sure where next to stay, he has a producer, a director, two researchers, a sound recordist, three cameramen and a location manager to show him the way.

A LAW FOR PRIVACY?

SHOULD there be a law to protect privacy? Sir Louis Blom-Cooper QC, and Lord Williams of Mostyn QC, will join Simon Jenkins, the former editor of *The Times*, and Richard Shepherd MP to debate the issue at the London Press Centre, New Street Square, London EC4 on December 2 at 6.30pm (071-704 9941). Lord Woolf will be in the chair. To obtain tickets to the forum, *Should there be a law to protect privacy?* being held in association with Rubinstein Callingham, Polden & Gale, fill in the coupon below.

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Yeltsin urges supporters to unite against anti-reformers

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

A CONFIDENT President Yeltsin admitted at the weekend that he had made "tactical compromises" in the run-up to tomorrow's crucial Congress of People's Deputies, but said that his strategy was to keep Russia's reforms alive.

Speaking to Moscow intellectuals in his last public appearance before some 1,000 deputies attend the twice-yearly meeting of the "super-parliament", Mr Yeltsin denied that he had given ground on reform to the centre-right grouping Civic Union, dominated by the military-industrial complex, adding: "We had some reshuffles. They were not easy decisions, but this is in no way a rejection of radicalism in reform."

Mr Yeltsin urged his supporters to set up a united

political force to help him fight resistance to change. "Radical reforms need a strong social base," he said. "We need a political force and I as president must be part of it." When he came to power, Mr Yeltsin was backed by the liberal Democratic Russia group, an anti-communist forum which has since split into factions. The Russian leader has found himself hampered by the absence of a party structure during the recent struggle with hardline opponents.

The Russian president also admitted yesterday that it was necessary to modify the reforms to satisfy the industrial sector, and carefully chose catch-words like "realism" and "socially-oriented policies" to appease those who want change slowed and measures to forestall mass unemployment and factory closures.

Mr Yeltsin gave a bravura performance of calculated duplicity, played with barely a flicker of embarrassment, to both the reformers' and the conservatives' galleries. The Congress, which has a conservative majority, has the power to unseat Mr Yeltsin's government or deflect its course. Mr Yeltsin has sought to establish a stable support base by wooing the pragmatists of Civic Union to back him against the Russian nationalists and hardline former communists who have plotted to use economic discontent to push for his resignation.

Last week Mr Yeltsin sacrificed two of the aides who had figured on Civic Union's hit list, sacking his information minister, Mikhail Poltoranin and moving Gennadi Burbulis, state secretary, to another post, prompting fears in the democratic camp that he was selling out to conservatives. But Mr Yeltsin seems to have preferred to give Civic Union a couple of well-known heads on a platter than haggle with them over reform strategy.

For those accustomed to some consistency in their politicians, Mr Yeltsin's swings between the role of defiant reformer and wily compromise merchant are confusing; yesterday he was back in the role of fiery radical. But Russian politics in today's feverish climate demands the sacrifice of principle to flexibility. Mr Yeltsin's tactical prowess looks like getting him through the week with his reforms intact — perhaps at the price of sacrificing a further couple of luckless heads from his entourage.

Yesterday Russian air-traffic controllers said that they would begin an indefinite strike tomorrow. The move could pitch Mr Yeltsin's government into its first big clash with organised labour. The strike, declared illegal by the courts, was postponed by a day to allow the Congress deputies to arrive in Moscow.

Warsaw Forces of the former Soviet Union still stationed in Poland say they intend to fire warning shots if they are threatened. The announcement came after local youths stoned their barracks at Legnica, the PAP news agency reported. Relations between Russia and Poland were strained by the vandalising near Legnica last month of the graves of Soviet soldiers who died in the war. (Reuters)

This is the fifth article previewing the Congress meeting.



Burbulis: shift of post worried reformers

Nuclear cover-ups alleged

By ROBERT SEELY

UKRAINE'S former political and scientific leadership covered up details of two nuclear accidents in Kiev nearly 20 years ago, Ukrainian press reports say.

According to letters released from the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and reported in *Kievskiy Vedomosti*, the country's leading independent newspaper, two nuclear accidents, one of which released radioactivity into the city's atmosphere, occurred in 1968 and 1970, long before Chernobyl.

Nuclear power has remained controversial here since the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. Although parliament announced Chernobyl's closure last year amid demands by some deputies that Ukraine should abandon civil nuclear power, two of the four reactors at the power station will be operating again by the end of this year.

The No 3 reactor, which shares a building with the core that exploded in 1986, spilling radiation over a wide area of Eastern and Central Europe and beyond, was reactivated late last month. The No 1 reactor is expected to be operating by the middle of next month. The second reactor at the site was closed permanently after a fire in the building last year.

Ukraine's government has been compelled to reopen the Chernobyl plant because of a chronic shortage of electricity that threatens to close much of the country's industry.



Called as a witness: Elie Wiesel, front right, the Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate, touring Sarajevo yesterday with President Izetbegovic of Bosnia. Mr Wiesel was invited by Belgrade to support its arguments that there is no comparison between Serb and Nazi camps

Confidence grows in ranks of Travnik's 'doomed' defenders

FROM ADAM LEBOR, OUTSIDE TRAVNIK

BOSNIAN soldiers worked quickly, gouging holes from the rock at the side of the road and laying mines against any Serbian advance. The town of Turbe lay just over a mile down the road. It is pounded daily by Serbian artillery and likely to fall soon, bringing the Serbs comfortably within striking distance of Travnik.

Here on the outskirts of Travnik the precariousness of the Bosnian and Croat positions is all too evident. The boom of artillery fire and the crack of machineguns echo through the narrow valley. The Serb positions on the surrounding hill daily slam their deadly barrage into the winding streets of Ottoman houses and mosques.

Just a few days ago it was almost accepted wisdom that Travnik, a city of 70,000 and now home to another 20,000 refugees, would fall soon. Travnik has been under a general alert for eight days but it appears that reports of its early death have been much exaggerated. The city is under joint Croatian-Bosnian command and its defences have been strengthened. Reinforcements have poured in after the recent fall of Jajce to the Serbs.

That was a harsh lesson for the Croat and Muslim armies fighting in Bosnia together

against the Serbs about the necessity of co-operation against their common enemy. Fighting erupted earlier this autumn between Croats and Muslims in Novi Travnik and the nearby town of Prozor.

Now though, the motto is co-operation, not conflict. Bosnian officers say that while there is still an undercurrent of tension in the field, officers are working together more easily. Both sides know that fresh fighting between Croats and Muslims will hand Travnik gift-wrapped to the waiting Serbs in the hills.

Bosnian officers say their forces are outgunned and that they are short of artillery, but also that the Serbs' heavy guns are badly controlled. "The Serbs concentrate on artillery because we lack heavy guns," said Ahmed Kulenovic, in charge of a 40-mile front-line section. "But they are badly organised and we always win against them in their infantry attacks. We have some mortars and lots of small arms so we concentrate on infantry operations."

Commander Kulenovic knows his enemy only too well. His Serbian opposite number, lurking in the hills, served with him in the Yugoslav army. Many Bosnian officers believe that if and when Turbe falls the Serbs

may well dig in for the winter and the war may temporarily wind down. "Their strategic aim is to connect Serbia with Serbian occupied Bosnia and Croatia," said Commander Kulenovic. "The tactics are to strengthen their positions for the winter, keep the region under artillery attack and then start again in the spring."

British troops based nearby in Vitez appear to be a calming influence. Travnik was heavily shelled for three days earlier this month, sending the population scurrying into shelters. But when a group of Warrior armoured vehicles patrolled the town, a reminder to the Serbs that the UN forces are nearby, the shelling was reduced.

Some locals are resentful that the British soldiers do



not use their considerable fire power against the Serbian guns, which they could only do if they came under fire themselves. "They understand the mandate from the United Nations," said Memet, a student, "but they always wish that the British soldiers could do more." But many of the Serb soldiers too are not aware of the diplomatic niceties of the British UN mandate and now in the Balkans might be right. The Serbs are likely to think twice before opening up against the Warriors.

Shelling in Bosnia dims truce hopes

FROM HUGH PAIN IN SARAJEVO

SHELLING and machine-gun fire thudded through Sarajevo yesterday, hours before a truce between Bosnia's Serbs and neighbouring Croatia was due to take effect.

Two people were killed and two wounded overnight in Sarajevo's shell-battered old town, according to the police. In the new districts outside the city centre and western suburbs, gunmen kept up machine-gun fire throughout the night and early morning. But the city centre was calm by midday.

The ceasefire, brokered by Major General Philippe Morillon, head of the UN peacekeepers in Bosnia, commits Croats and Bosnian Serbs to stop cross-border shelling. Under the agreement, due to come into force from midnight last night, Zagreb will withdraw troops who are Croatian citizens — as opposed to Bosnian Croats.

General Morillon said Croatia had admitted for the first time that its regular army was deployed in parts of Bosnia. The discussions were not attended by either Bosnia's Croats or Muslims. Alija Izetbegovic, the Muslim president, refused to take part in the discussions with Bosnian Serb officials.

Barry Frewer, the United Nations (Unprofor) spokesman, said that Rado Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military leader, was due to meet a high-ranking official of the Bosnian Croatian defence council at Sarajevo airport yesterday as part of an "ongoing process of ceasefire".

The Bosnian Serbs, Muslims and Croats signed a ceasefire accord on November 10 covering Bosnia which came into effect two days later. Although widely violated, it has succeeded in damping the fighting in some areas and is still regarded as a basis for further progress.

Yesterday, however, there was little sign of any further lull in fighting, with artillery attacks for hours on the northern towns of Gradacac and Tesanj, and a night of gunfire in Olovo, on a main road north from Sarajevo. (Reuters)

UN brings hope to embattled town

Continued from page 1

nian soldier, as the convoy finally rolled across the front line. Children scrapped for sweets tossed to them by UN troops, who gave away their own rations.

"Look at this," said one woman thrusting forward a corn and oat cake. "That's what we've been eating." Her husband's face was marked with shrapnel wounds inflicted by a mine when he had ventured into the fields to gather corn. "We've been slaughtering the animals because we have nothing left to feed them," she said. In September a Serb aerial attack blew out their front room. Now the family of six sleeps in the one room they have left, par for the course here.

Since May Srebrenica has been without electricity, running water or communications. Radio hams provide the only link with the outside world. "We are totally physically isolated," said Hamet Salihovic, a military official. "The Serbs we can handle. But we need food and medicine desperately and the cold is the real problem."

The siege has sent the town back through time. There are no shops, all goods are bartered and, except for those with marks, money has ceased to exist. Those who live away from the front line are best off. Those with fields close to the front dice with death daily. They can only creep out to gather their crops at night, and many still fall victim to mines. Worst off are the refugees in town with neither their own homes nor land.

In Srebrenica hospital, torch bulbs have been taped to the walls, powered by lorry batteries. An old alcohol still is being used to distil water.

without anaesthetic, and the hospital has no medicines. "A disaster," said an incredulous Dr Dzevad Begic, when told that the convoy carried no medical supplies. "We have no disinfectants, no bandages, no infusions, no power and no antibiotics."

Hajro Rizvanovic, who suffered a throat wound on Friday, writhed in pain. "Without medicine he'll die for sure," said Dr Begic. "With it he might survive. We needed the medicine more than the food." Doctors said 320 people had died in the hospital who could have survived if there had been medicine.

The town centre has been devastated. Outlying areas have also been badly damaged but some parts have escaped unscathed. Factories close to the front line have borne the brunt of the shelling and many shops were looted and ruined when the Serbs retreated. On the other hand, Serb refugees in Bratunac also say that they fled when they were burned out of their homes by local Muslims.

Shortly before we pulled out, we encountered Nasir Oric, the local Bosnian commander, surrounded by a posse of Muslim defenders. He used to be the bodyguard of Slobodan Milosevic, Serbia's president. It is measure of the topsy-turvy world of former Yugoslavia that Commander Oric now wears a medallion inscribed with "Allah is Great" and leads the town's defence.

An hour later, the empty UN lorries rolled back into Serb-held territory. "We'll let them have a good meal first — and then we'll give it to them," chorled a Serb officer. As dusk fell, the Serb mortars opened up, and the suffering of Srebrenica's human beings

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Tales of torture rife as forces of law fight terror with terror in Peru



Fujimori has declared war on the Shining Path

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN LIMA

UNIFORMED gunmen arrived in the middle of the night, during curfew hours, to drag Nancy Pimentel away from her brick house in the shanty town of Chosica, a huge urban overspill 20 miles outside Lima, the capital. She was beaten in front of neighbours, blindfolded and shoved into the back of a Jeep.

The student, 25, "disappeared" for almost a month and says she was tortured by members of the Peruvian security forces after she was taken to an interrogation camp on October 10 and accused of being a Shining Path guerrilla. Señora Pimentel says she has no connections with the Maoist rebels, but was released by her captors after repeated torture and was dumped unconscious miles from her home. "I don't know

where I was taken that night," she said. "Those who interrogated me said they were the anti-terrorist police. They asked questions about my university and said they had followed me and seen me taking part in terrorist meetings."

"When I denied I had anything to do with the Shining Path, they applied electric shocks to my fingers and breasts. I fainted several times. When I woke up they kept asking the same questions and they punched me several times in the stomach," she added as she sat in her damp, dark living room, showing the scars of the beatings.

From the small cell where she was kept without food and blindfolded she said she heard the screams of another woman being tortured and claims also to have heard soldiers exercising. "They released me after 22 days when I agreed to sign

a document declaring I had not been maltreated."

Unlike Señora Pimentel, a group of nine students and a professor from the university she attends, La Universidad de la Cantuta, "disappeared" on July 18 and repeated attempts by relatives and human rights activists to find them have failed. Daniel Pérez, a researcher at the university, said he saw Hugo Muñoz Sánchez, a professor, being dragged away with his students in daylight by security forces. But officers at the army camp near by and the anti-terrorist police, Dinote, have denied the group has been detained.

Human rights organisations claim there has been a rise in human rights violations by security forces since President Fujimori initiated a coup in April when he gave the armed forces increased emergency powers to launch an all-

out war against Shining Path guerrillas.

The army and death squads linked to the security forces are indiscriminately "disappearing" people they say are terrorist suspects. But the detentions are clandestine and there are no trials or rights for those people detained," Francisco Soberón, director of the Peruvian Association of Human Rights, said.

Since the Shining Path launched its terrorist violence to install a Maoist regime in Peru the guerrillas have committed some of the most ruthless human rights violations. More than 25,000 people have died in political violence in 12 years. They have targeted political figures, community leaders and soldiers, and killed thousands of campesinos or peasant farmers who resist joining the guerrillas. At the weekend, army troops, supported by

helicopters, occupied a Shining Path camp in Ayacucho, the cradle of the insurgency, causing between 30 and 40 guerrilla casualties.

"Human rights violations committed by the state—or a government that says it is committed to democracy—are of great concern," Señor Soberón said. Human rights organisations have registered more than 3,000 disappearances since 1983. With people found dead or eventually released, the figure rises to 5,000.

In the seven months since the coup on April 5 there have been more than 300 cases. But violations often occur in remote areas where it is impossible to register cases, their real figures are thought to be higher.

"The situation is out of control," Javier Cuatrecasas, a human rights activist, said. "The security forces have emergency powers in more than half the country. There are no trials and the trials that do exist are undertaken by anonymous judges."

The detention of journalists, such as José Ramírez García on August 17, have received the most publicity. The sociologist and journalist was detained in his home town of Cuzco, in southern Peru, because he was found in possession of the book on the Shining Path by Simon Storry, a British journalist.

"This book is hardly sympathetic to the Shining Path, but García has been held incommunicado for many months and no amount of pressure from human rights groups to President Fujimori have helped to get him a fair trial," Señor Cuatrecasas said.

The most frequent victims of violations are campesinos in areas with strong guerrilla presence, such as the northern San Martín province, and students. In the university town of Hunucayo, 125 miles outside Lima, eight "disappeared" students were found dead and dismembered three weeks ago, after witnesses saw them being detained by anti-terrorist policemen.

Since security forces began a clampdown on the Shining Path after the arrest of Abimael Guzmán, its leader, in a Lima suburb in September, there have also been mass arrests in shanty town areas surrounding the capital where the rebels are believed to have the most support. "Dozens of innocent people are being taken simply because they are social workers, working with the poor or have left-wing affiliations," Señor Soberón said.

"The army is adopting the same terror tactics as the terrorists. In this way President Fujimori will never be able to put an end to violence."

Black gunmen slay four whites at wine party in South Africa

FROM WILLIAM MACLEAN IN JOHANNESBURG

BLACK gunmen hurling grenades burst into a South African wine-tasting party and sprayed bullets at the 60 guests, killing four whites and wounding 17, police said yesterday.

The unprecedented, military-style attack by blacks on whites at a golf club in the Eastern Cape settlement of King William's Town brought to 25 the number of people killed in political and criminal attacks at the weekend.

"South Africa is shocked and horrified," Dave Steward, a government spokesman, said. "These incidents represent a harsh and discordant note after the hope that has recently arisen in the wake of progress with negotiations."

In Durban's Umlazi township attackers shot dead three people including a grandmother in their beds on Saturday night, then dragged the corpses out of the house and chopped them up with bush

knives. Eighteen people have been killed in attacks around Johannesburg since Friday, police said.

"The scene was one of devastation... absolute carnage," Ray Radue, the National Party MP who attended the function at the multiracial golf club, said.

The African National Congress condemned the attack and described it as an attempt by unidentified forces to foment violence in the Border region encompassing the volatile Ciskei homeland.

Johan van der Merwe, the police commissioner, offered a reward of R50,000 rand (\$17,000) for information leading to the arrest of the five attackers, all of whom escaped in a vehicle. Police said the five hurled grenades into the club's bar and dining areas and started firing rounds with automatic rifles into guests, killing two white couples and wounding 17 people, mostly whites.

"The grenades exploded. It all happened in seconds," Mr Radue said. "It appears that simultaneously, a petrol bomb attack was launched from outside, the target apparently being a row of gas cylinders which serve the club's ablution block. Further shots were also fired at the building through the bar window." Security patrols in the area were stepped up immediately after the attack.

Smuts Nkonyama, a local ANC leader, condemned the attack because the ANC wanted to solve political differences through negotiation, not violence. "It is an initiative by certain groups to undermine the relative stability we are trying to cultivate in our area," he said.

The region has been tense since Ciskei troops shot dead 29 people during an ANC march to the capital Bisho on September 7 in one of the worst mass killings of the three-year apartheid reform era.

Mr Nkonyama and Ciskei officials started talks in recent weeks to try to reduce violence that flared after the massacre including killings of Ciskei soldiers in their homes and

killings and assaults on pro-ANC activists in the area. (Reuters)

Army training: More than 1,000 young recruits have been sent by the ANC to Uganda for military training at a time when the United Nations has spent more than \$20 million bringing exiles, many of them soldiers of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's armed wing, back to the country (Ray Kennedy writes).

Reports here yesterday said the ANC believes that the training is necessary to increase the strength of Umkhonto before it is merged with the South African Defence Force in a post-apartheid integrated army.

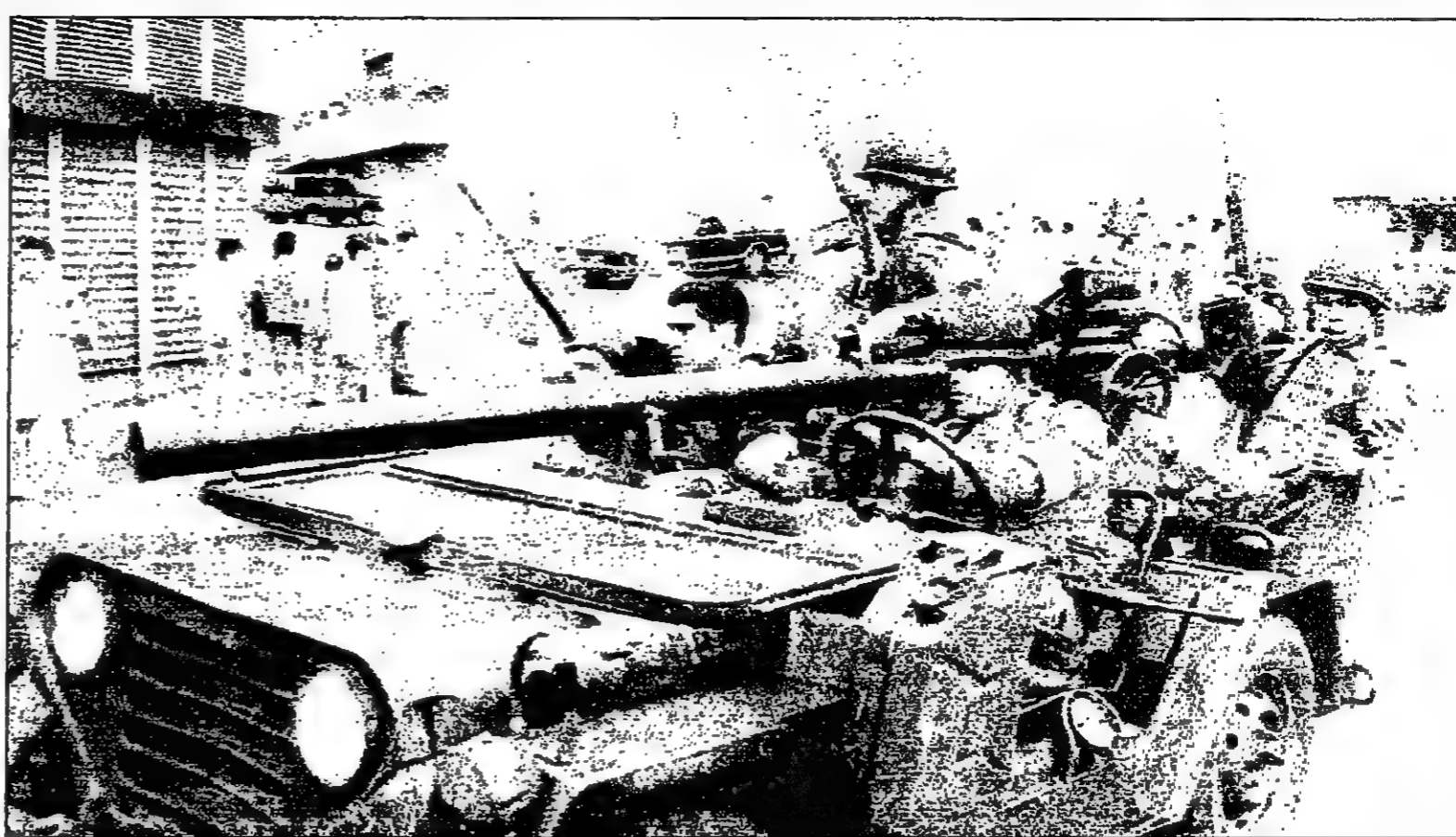
Ronnie Kasrils, a member of the ANC national executive and former intelligence chief of Umkhonto, said it was necessary to prepare young people interested in a military career for a future integrated army which would come into being when an interim government was elected.

Nelson Mandela, president of the ANC, said that the training camps abroad had never been a secret and that the Goldstone commission was welcome to inspect them. Two weeks ago the commission investigating violence under Mr Justice Richard Goldstone asked for wider powers to investigate military and quasi-military establishments inside and outside South Africa.

Mr Mandela told a large rally in Mamelodi township outside Pretoria: "We are travelling the last mile on the road to freedom." He said an ANC policy document drawn up last week by the national executive would be distributed soon.

Roelf Meyer, minister of constitutional development, said at the weekend that the issue of continued recruitment for Umkhonto by the ANC would have to be resolved before there was a political settlement.

"This can't continue once you have a transitional government," he said. "One party can't go on with its own separate, so-called army. That is totally unacceptable."



Presenting arms: Venezuelan soldiers patrol a street in Caracas in a Jeep equipped with an anti-aircraft gun. Security in the capital is tight and a curfew has been imposed as troops enforce order after Friday's failed coup, the second this year against President Pérez

Arrests follow failed coup in Venezuela

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN CARACAS

VENEZUELA struggled to restore a semblance of order yesterday after Friday's failed military coup in which an estimated 160 people died and hundreds more were injured, mostly civilians.

General Ivan Jiménez Sánchez, the defence minister, said at least 500 military officers and more than 700 soldiers believed to be members of the anti-government Bolivarian Movement were under arrest after the country's second military rebellion this year. The government said the prisoners would be brought before a military court on charges of rebellion and murder.

Venezuela has begun extradition proceedings in Peru to request the return of 92 rebels, including 73 officers, who escaped in the dying hours of the coup on board a Hercules aircraft. The rebels, led by General Efraim Visconti, have requested political asylum.

President Fujimori of Peru has not yet made a decision, but diplomats pointed out that the two countries severed relations after Señor Fujimori, backed by the Peruvian mili-

tary, led his own "constitutional coup" in April. That move was strongly condemned by President Pérez of Venezuela.

Schools have been closed until next week and 17 students were arrested when troops searched the capital's Central University after reports that left-wing elements there were involved in the coup. But the government said local elections planned for next Sunday would go ahead.

General Fernando Ochoa Antich, the foreign minister and former defence minister who played a key role in putting down the last coup in February, accused two left-wing groups, Red Flag and Third Way, of planning the coup with rebel military officers. He said the government had proof of an alliance between the rebel military and "extreme radical groups with Marxist ideas."

Military reports said left-wing students were involved in a failed effort on Friday to free Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chávez, February's coup leader, from the Yare prison outside Caracas. A video tape of Col Chávez, smuggled out of jail, was broadcast on local television stations seized by the rebels early in the coup. The

government confirmed that Col Chávez, who has become something of a folk hero since February, remains behind bars. But his populist image appears to have been seriously undermined by the second coup.

Although public opinion polls have indicated that 90 per cent of the population oppose President Pérez, the great majority of people favour change by democratic means. "This is not the way to change what we have, however bad it is," said Jorge Carmona, a newspaper seller. "If the people had taken to the streets the government would have fallen. The soldiers cannot massacre the people," he added.

Most of the capital's four million residents stayed at home at the weekend as loyal soldiers and police mopped up the last pockets of rebel resistance and began to clear debris and broken glass—as well as several unexploded bombs—from streets around the Miraflores presidential palace which came under attack during the coup.

A rebel missile left a gaping hole 20ft wide in the palace outer wall as nervous plainclothes policemen blocked all

streets around the building in the city centre. Journalists who tried to reach the palace were turned away at gunpoint. As a police officer with a pistol stuffed into his waistband searched a car carrying reporters, a hand grenade fell from his belt and bounced in the road, sending bystanders fleeing in panic.

At a funeral in a chapel of the National Guard headquarters, eight loyal soldiers who died were posthumously decorated for their courage, including two members of the presidential honour guard.



Visconti: seeks political asylum in Peru

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vital Korea jet tape is missing

Seoul: A vital tape, which could explain how a Korean airliner was shot down by a Soviet jet in 1983, is missing from the black box handed over by President Yeltsin (Michael Breen writes).

The plane was on a scheduled flight from New York to Seoul when it was shot down near Sakhalin. All 269 on board are presumed dead.

Scientists in Seoul found a cockpit voice recorder, flight-data recorder and four separate tapes. But no tape was found from the flight-data recorder.

Mosque ringed

Ayodhya, India: Thousands of troops laid virtual siege to this ancient holy town as Hindus resumed a crusade for a temple on the site of a mosque. Two years ago Hindus tried to storm the mosque they claim was built by invading Moghuls on a temple site. (AFP)

Star sues

Los Angeles: Michael Jackson has filed a \$30 million lawsuit against the sportswear manufacturer L.A. Gear, alleging fraud and breach of contract. The firm has similarly sued the pop star over a line of trainers. (AFP)

Rich man loses

Tokyo: Kenichi Nakajima, 71, president of Heiwa Corp and listed three years ago as Japan's richest man, has been fined £140 million for allegedly failing to report £300 million income. (AP)

Scientist held

Toronto: Quigui Zhu, 33, a Chinese nuclear scientist working at a Toronto hospital, has been arrested on charges of deliberately contaminating a colleague's food with radioactive material. (Reuters)

Tomb reopened

Luxor: The tomb of King Tutankhamun has been reopened for two months to mark the 70th anniversary of its discovery by the British archaeologist, Howard Carter. (AFP)

Park and ride

Hong Kong: Teenagers ended an evening's drinking here by breaking into a marine park to ride on the backs of the dolphins. (Reuters)

Economics govern Peking-Hanoi ties

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

When Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, visits Vietnam today he will be joining a rush to do business that takes in friends and former enemies alike.

The first visit in 20 years of a senior figure from Vietnam's ancient enemy shows how far economics has eclipsed politics as the driving force of governments in east Asia. It is also an important sign from China that it is ready for an era of stability in the east Asian region. China's neighbours are concerned about its military build-up with modern Russian weaponry. But Peking is also concerned to keep a close watch on any developing friendship between Vietnam and America which might give rise to some independence of thought and action in the country Chinese instinctively think of as a southern province.

However, the emerging relationship between Peking and Hanoi will be based on their new multi-polar relationships derived from economic interests, rather than on the ideology that held



Lee Kuan Yew gives advice on economy

them together through the Vietnam war.

Vietnam's outlook has changed so much that a leading anti-communist, Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore, has been visiting and is now on tap as an occasional adviser. Last spring the businessman Sir James Goldsmith met the prime minister, Vo Van Kiet, and came away impressed.

With a French warship this week briefly visiting the port of Haiphong for the first time since it was a French naval

headquarters during Hanoi's anti-colonial war, and Japan resuming aid and loans after 14 years, Hanoi looks ready to claim its place as the capital of a new east Asian economic power.

The key to the new era is the unilateral unblocking of Japanese aid and a Japanese-French agreement to write off Vietnam's \$140 million (\$93 million) debt to the International Monetary Fund which could clear the way for new loans from the World Bank. An IMF mission is due in Hanoi next month, and Japan is making available \$370 million in concessional credits. A new tranche of the brokerage firm Smith, New Court's successful Vietnam Fund will soon be launched, and other funds will soon channel money into such projects as building offices and apartments for foreigners.

The attraction for entrepreneurs is a relatively well-educated and work-hungry populace with minimum monthly labour costs of £23. Japanese car-makers have longed to run their high-tech plants on such fantastically

low costs, but they have been restrained by the Americans and their Vietnam war sensitivities. Washington gave a discreet go-ahead to Japanese aid, but their own position remains fraught.

The near-impossible task of accounting for all Americans lost or held captive during the Vietnam war has been the key to Washington's opening diplomatic links with Hanoi. President Bush may make the gesture of normalisation but if he does not, it may be some time before Bill Clinton is able to do so. With allegations of draft avoidance still on the record, his position is delicate and the political benefits of moving on recognition are unclear.

John Kerry, a Democratic senator, produced a favourable assessment of Vietnamese attempts to tidy up the issue, but Mr Clinton left himself an escape clause during the election campaign when he said he wanted a "full accounting" from the Vietnamese of those missing in action before he would act.

Alistair Cooke signs off in America at 84

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

ALISTAIR Cooke, the broadcaster, yesterday announced his retirement from the American television programme he has hosted for more than two decades—a role that made him in the eyes of most Americans the quintessential Englishman and a bastion of British culture in this country.

In Britain, the journalist and writer is best known for his weekly BBC radio series *Letter From America*, a programme he started in 1946 and that has run longer than any other. In America, Mr Cooke, 84 ten days ago, is indelibly associated with the public-service television series *Masterpiece Theatre*, which shows such (usually British) programmes as *The Jewel in the Crown* and *Upstairs Downstairs*, attracting huge audiences.

Mr Cooke's performance as host of *Masterpiece Theatre* was immutable and distinctive: seated in an armchair, often with a book open on his lap, he would offer in measured and urbane tones an introduction to the pro-

gramme and a brief synopsis. At the end, he would offer his conclusion, which was not always flattering. The series *Poldark*, for example, he dismissed as "nothing but contorted plot".

His retirement announcement last night, after the final episode of *The Secret Agent*, seen recently in Britain, was vintage Cooke. "I don't have many more miles to go," he said, "but I do have promises to keep before I sleep and one or two ambitions among them an insane desire to shave a stroke or two off my golf handicap."

Perhaps the only people more firmly associated with Britain in the American popular consciousness are the Queen and the late Benny Hill.

Mr Cooke's retirement has been greeted with a flurry of accolades. *The New York Times* proclaimed the "gracious exit" of "an icon in an armchair" who "has been unique in his continuing association with... upscale programming."

The law's pregnant pause

How clear are the principles of job protection for the pregnant?

Victoria McKee reports

Discrimination during pregnancy or while on maternity leave is one of the largest and fastest growing areas of enquiry for the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), according to Vereena Jones, the commission's solicitor. "So many women are either dismissed or lose benefits, are passed over for promotion or subjected to less favourable terms during this period," Ms Jones says.

Last week, five law lords referred to the European Court of Justice a case which has confounded British courts. Carole Webb, of West Drayton, west London, was taken on by EMO Air Cargo (UK) Ltd in June 1987 as an import operations clerk to provide cover because another clerk, Valeria Stewart, would be leaving to have a baby. Two weeks into a six-month training period under Mrs Stewart, Ms Webb discovered she was pregnant. Although she claimed that her dismissal in the circumstances constituted sex discrimination, two hearings came to the same conclusion: that she was dismissed because of her anticipated inability to cover Mrs Stewart's absence.

The law lords deferred their final judgment so that the European court could set down its views on a case that challenges the existing principles of employment protection and sex discrimination during pregnancy. The fact that they did so appears to highlight a confusion over employment law on pregnancy, a condition for which it is difficult to plead "unequal" treatment since there are no comparable circumstances for men.

"Our law is reasonably clear," says a senior official at the employment department. "The problem arises for the House of Lords because European law isn't yet, and if our law lords reached a judgment that was inconsistent with European law it wouldn't be much use."



Danger, pregnant women at work: the defiant face of the expectant worker in the BBC's drama series *Making Out*.

Two recent decisions by the European court were in some senses contradictory. In the Dutch Dekker case, the courts ruled, under the EC's equal treatment directive, that a woman who was not appointed to a post because she was pregnant, despite being the most suitable candidate, had been unfairly discriminated against.

The court established that since pregnancy applies exclusively to women, this was discriminatory," Ms Jones says, "and there was no need to take into account whether the company would have rejected similarly to a hypothetical male who might have required sick leave — which

has been the position in the English courts."

The Danish Herz case was regarded by the EOC as a setback. It involved a woman who was dismissed six months after her maternity leave had ended for suffering from a pregnancy-related illness. The courts upheld the dismissal, "saying that the protection against pregnancy discrimination ends after the period of maternity leave," Ms Jones explains.

The Webb case, as the EOC sees it, can either confirm the simple and positive ruling laid down in the Dekker case or create new grey areas of uncertainty. Christine Gowdridge, the director of the Maternity

Alliance, which campaigns to improve rights for working mothers, says: "The Webb case is not likely to be repeated very often, and therefore we feel that to alter the law to accommodate something like this is wrong."

Cases reported over the past few years include that of Sarah Bone, an insurance broker, who lost her company directorship after hospitalisation to reduce her blood pressure during pregnancy; Simone Wood, demoted from manager to sales assistant in a shoe department after returning from maternity leave; and Gaynor O'Neill, who lost her job with a building society after her boss called her a

"mess" while she was pregnant because she could no longer "back her uniform blouse into her skirt."

Joanna Foster, the EOC's chair, who will be speaking tonight at the Royal Society of Arts on Quality, Equality and Europe, suggests that "there's been a steep increase in such cases because employers know the law is very complicated at the moment, and because with hard times they think it is justifiable to get away with sacking someone because they're pregnant."

Awards such as the one to be presented tomorrow by *She* magazine in conjunction with Reed personnel services and the Working Mothers' Association, to the Employer of the Year, attempt to counteract this negative mood. Nine organisations have been short-listed, including the British Council, for its generous maternity pay and leave provision, HM Customs and Excise, for its flexible working practices, and Barclays Bank, for its six-month "family responsibility break."

But "family friendly" policies are at odds, Ms Foster acknowledges, with harsh economic realities which have

caused many plans — and people — to be shelved.

A European "pregnancy directive" in committee stage in the House of Commons, will entitle all women, regardless of length of service, to 14 weeks' maternity leave on at least statutory sick pay and protect them from dismissal because they are pregnant.

The EOC has supported "numerous" strategic cases concerning discrimination during pregnancy. "One," Ms Jones says, "where a woman was taken sick before her maternity leave and lost her job. Another where a woman wasn't even interviewed for a job because they discovered she was pregnant and one where a woman, miscarried and was dismissed because her employers thought she'd keep trying again."

The EOC is confident that it had established, through its successful challenges, the principle that it is unlawful to dismiss a woman because she is pregnant. The Webb case, however, has muddled the waters. "Obviously the sympathy will lie with the employer in this case," Ms Jones acknowledges, "so it is not at all typical."

The spider's stratagem

Superwoman! What can have possessed the National Council of Women (NCW) to put that moth-eaten, discredited, tatty old bird in the title of their report on women and work? Its full name was "Superwoman Keeps Going — Understanding the female web". The web image was better, suggesting fewer heroics and more complexity; perhaps we should switch to Spiderwoman as a role-model. This would have the added advantage of acknowledging the muted horror with which many men (and Barbara Cartland) still view career-minded women. Female spiders, remember, not only weave webs; they eat males alive. For all we know, they probably accuse them of sexual harassment, refuse to make coffee, and wear really annoying clicking stiletto heels round the office. Yes, Spiderwoman it is.

The NCW report got varied coverage. London's *Evening Standard* decided on the headline "Superwoman finds staying home is best". The *Independent* and the *Guardian* came up with the opposite reading — the former saying "Women put priority on working life". The *Daily Telegraph* settled for "The Superwoman Trap" and noted that children have "slipped to third place as a priority", while the *Daily Mirror* was even more shocked ("Mum's not the word") by the suggestion that 87 per cent of females aged 16-44 say a woman does not need a child in order to feel fulfilled, and "voiced a husband and kids a poor third" to hobbies and work. The words "selfish, coward" were not actually printed, but they sort of hovered, unspoken.

I read the full report, being curious about this "third place" apparently held by Spiderwoman's family. It turned out that the question was actually about what you "would like to spend more time on". It was, in other words, a measure of wishful thinking. Naturally, the majority spoke of hobbies and education. Only 15 per cent wanted extra time with their families — considering that they had already explained that their family took up most of their energy, this seems not unreasonable. What do they want, blood?

As for the much-flagged "Children are not fulfilling" line, it is true that 87 per cent of the under-44s refused to agree that "a woman needs a child to be fulfilled". But so what? Surely it is a cause for robust rejoicing that only 13 per cent of us are so tediously mummy as to consider a childless woman disabled? But the most interesting, and least headlined, aspect of the report was on women's confidence at work. What pain showed through figures it was about yearning to have skills recognised and used. A lot of the bustling, juggling women are, it seems to me, quite a bit off their families at the moment.



LIBBY PURVE

Look at the figures: ten quarters feel they are or half-educated. The proportion want to get further in their work, fewer than half have dared plan how. A third, specifically, of unskilled skill they are "organising an communicating" (i.e. being PAs) and want to be "practical, analytical and problem solving".

Yet they hang back fearful. Only half think senior managers have any interest in their career, and most see their promotion prospects as bad. The NCW observes that family women "have no time to get off the treadmill" and plan for themselves.

Oh yes, there is sadness here. Not a feminist grudge, but the sadness of unfulfilled dreams. I keep thinking of a classic BBC interview with a lady called Bella Kesper who glimpsed her personal paradise when she worked in the wartime shipyards. Then the men came back, and she spent 30 years trying to work again as a welder. All she wanted, she said, was to see "that beautiful thing, a ship" forming out of chaos, and her own hands helping it grow. Every word she spoke conjured up a pain that both sexes know equally: the pain of a missed vocation.

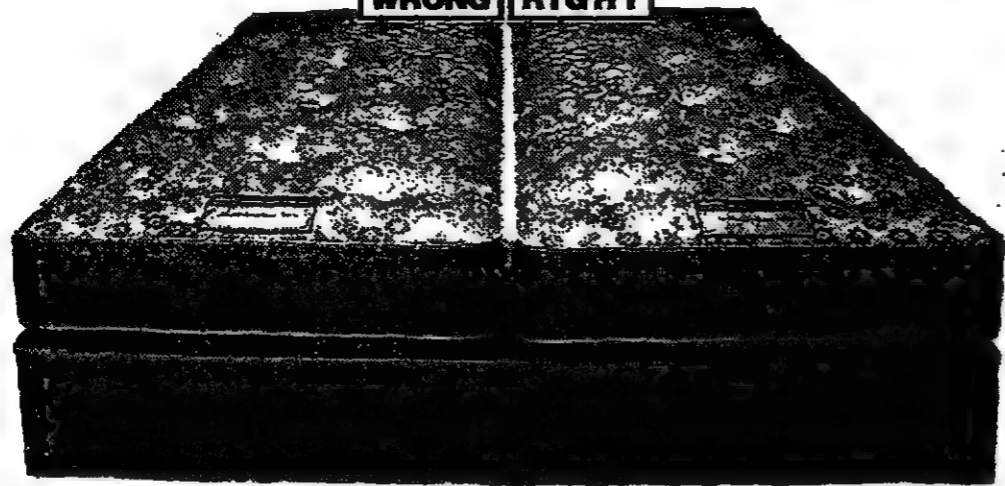
If managers recognised the note of hungry ambition as readily in the 35-year-old mother returning to work as in the bright young lad alongside her, who knows what joyful energies they might tap? If not, then grief for Bella: grief for poor tangled Spiderwoman, stuck in her own endless, circular web of clever arrangements, juggling handfuls of nothing much.

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ORTHOPAEDIC & MEDIBEDS

In a town called Alex

A woman priest is helping to bring peace to a South African township

In Alexandra, the battered black township abutting Johannesburg's leafy northern suburbs, an English widow is asking questions about shootings, accompanying the police on cordon-and-search operations in the hunt for illicit weapons, and peacekeeping.

The Rev Dr Elizabeth Carmichael, a medical doctor from St Thomas's, a doctor of philosophy from Oxford, and since November 14 a priest in the Anglican church, is a familiar face among the ruins of what the local press call "Beirut".

Dr Carmichael, the seventh woman in the Southern African province to be ordained, personifies in Alexandra the working of the National Peace Accord. It was signed 14 months ago by the leaders of the ruling National Party, the African National Congress and Inkatha. The aim was to find a way to end the fighting in the townships and in rural Natal. The accord is in deep trouble, but it has worked in Alexandra.

Dr Carmichael was born in Canterbury 46 years ago and always knew she wanted to be a missionary. And she wanted to be a priest. Her ambitions astounded her family. Her younger brother sent her a fax after the English synod, following the South African synod, voted for the ordination of

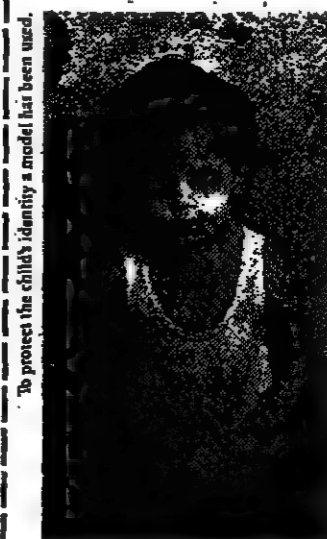
women priests. "You can come back now," he said, "provided you are not a bishop." After qualifying as a doctor in her twenties, she went to Soweto where for seven years she worked as an anaesthetist in Baragwanath hospital. In 1975 she married but her husband died in 1988. She later went to Oxford obtaining a degree in theology and later her doctorate.

Last year she came back to South Africa and gradually became involved with Alexandra. In March, before a dispute resolution committee could be properly established, war broke out in the township. Zulius, who were housed in and around the barrack-like hostels on the western fringe of the township, provided the source of the conflict.

An Interim Crisis Committee was formed with Dr Carmichael as its convener. "We've patiently worked to bring together sections of the community that mistrusted each other," she says, "and now, instead of seeing it all as a vast plot, people can see that it is the work of a few individuals."

Last week Leon Wessels, the South African housing minister, granted R3.5 million (£800,000) to rebuild the housing in "Beirut".

MICHAEL HAMLYN



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NSPCC

Leather forecasting



Fashion
IAIN R.
WEBB

The outlook for
leather is very
bright: sizzling
skins are the warm
front for winter

There has been much talk recently of the return of the leather look, style pundits eulogising over Brando's bike jacket, and straining to mention (Jim) Morrison's rock 'n' roll strides. Leather has become a hot favourite, and everyone wants to say something about it. Unfortunately, very few have something new to say. Leather has never been away, merely out of the fashion spotlight.

Like the white vest, or white shirt before it, leather is a constant in the wardrobe until the light shines upon it, and POW! it becomes a trend-setting icon for the beau monde. All the rage. Regardless of fashion, almost because of its anti-fashion status, the young (and very often the old who should know better) have donned leather for the "in-your-face" message it exudes. From punk princesses (all studs and chains) to ladies who lunch in Versace and Montana (all studs and chains, but somehow more chic), leather has been worn by generation after generation because it looks tough and looks good.

What looks good in leather right now is anything as long as it's not black: screechingly bright colours which previously would have been associated with aging Italian swingers. What changed all that was one full-length, pillar box red leather coat which sashayed on to the catwalk during the Chanel spring show, worn by Tatjana Patitz, who has a habit of making anything she wears look wonderful. The coat, and the concept, looked just right and as the lights went out at the end of the show so did the audience to search for their own leather coat of many colours.

A change of colour allows us to think about leather in a new way. Gone is the hard-edged black which aims for outrage, and in its place are sizzling soft skins — even a motorbike jacket looks uncorrupted in virginal white. Leather's fresh luxurious image makes it a perfect choice for evening, covering spangled gowns, or, more avant-garde, flared trousers, shot with hares.

Now that the traditional fur coat has had its day, or night, and fake fur prints have already begun to look lacklustre, what better way to keep warm — and stay cool — when wearing a slip of a dress than cloaking oneself in coloured leather? The only rock 'n' roll reminiscence here is of the King of R'n'R, Elvis Presley. Keep those oversized collars pulled way up.



Breathing a whiff of defiance

THE latest French *Elle* magazine blows smoke in the face of the country's lawmakers who aim to save the French from their favourite national pastime — Le Tabac. Despite the introduction of legislation on November 1 to restrict smoking in public places, there on the front cover of one of France's most popular fashion journals is a typically elegant model puffing away, a trail of smoke oozing from her perfectly painted lips. A throwaway gesture, or a defiant pose to fan the flames? *Sacre* (Gauloise) bleul

WHAT will Joe McKenna do next? He's been the fashion editor of *Rolling Stone*, he contributes to fashion journals the world over, he is one of photographer Bruce Weber's most favoured stylists and years back he appeared as Ken Barlow's son, Peter, in *Coronation Street*. Now he has designed and edited his own magazine cum book which is inevitably called *Joe's Magazine*. It features articles on the Paris designer Azzedine Alaïa, Vanessa Paradis and Dirk Bogarde, with photographic essays by Steven Meisel, Bruce Weber and George Flatt Lyles. The credits read like a Who's Who of hipdom, and it will naturally become a collector's item within hours. *Joe's Magazine*, £35, available from Paul Smith, 41-44 Floral Street, London WC2.

Above: Red leather trench coat, £1,650, Roland Klein, 7/9 Tryon St, Chelsea, SW3. Strapless red sequin dress, Catherine Walker for the Chelsea Design Company, to order (071-352 4626). Diamanté choker, £178, Butler & Wilson, 20 South Molton St, W1 1DD; 189 Fulham Rd, SW3 6NU; 53 Princess St and 48 Buchanan St, Glasgow G1

Above right: Orange leather trench jacket, £799, Joseph, 25 Sloane St, SW1; 77 Fulham Rd, SW3. Orange/gold "lure" pants, £192.50, John Richmond (enquiries: 071-498 2111). Multi-coloured drop earrings, £95, Butler & Wilson, as before

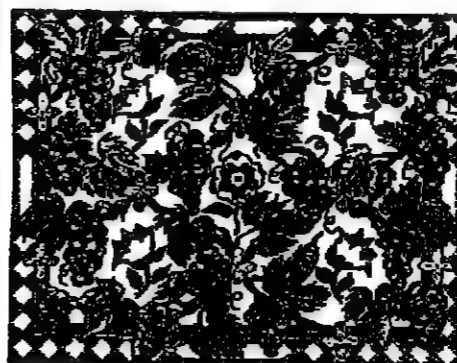
Right: White leather biker jacket, £350 (approx), long creamy white satin-backed crepe slip dress (in various colours and sizes), £145. Both Whistles, all branches (enquiries: 071-487 4484). Diamanté choker, £128, diamond necklace with cross, £112, both Butler & Wilson, as before

Photographs by Mike Owsen. Make-up by Stephanie Jenkins. Hair by Terry Saxon for Michael van Clarke



EHRMAN TAPESTRY IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF NEEDLEWORK

Trellis with Grapes



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Measuring 18" x 14.5" the design is printed in full colour on 12 holes to the inch canvas to capture the detail. It can be worked in either half-cross or tent stitch and enough 100% pure wool from the Appleton tapestry range is included to complete the design in either. The tapestry kit costs £38.00 including postage and packing and comes complete with canvas, wool, needle and instructions.

The kit is also available with the stool. The stool is polished mahogany-finished hardwood with cabriole legs and comes fully assembled. It has a removable fabric-covered top to which the tapestry is attached and instructions on how to do this are included. Measuring 17" x 13" the stool stands 7" high. The tapestry and stool together are £74.50 for the set. When ordering use FREEPOST - no stamp needed.

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Matthew Parris

It is the little truths that count about our political masters, not the big lies

Last Thursday, when Mr Lamont's problems with Access became national news, found me in the Times room at the Commons. We had a copy of that morning's Sun. Along with colleagues, and the rest of Britain, I giggled.

And we guessed among ourselves how our own paper would treat the news. We were unanimous. The Times would regard such a story as on the periphery of its vision: not quite beneath its notice, but far from centrally placed in any arrangement a serious newspaper would make of the news. Happily the tabloid press was there to feature the story, so our own excuse would be that, however regrettably, this issue was "in the public domain". A quality paper like ours would therefore notice the story, and mention it with, as it were, a half shrug of apology to our readers for the unavoidable vulgarity.

Our readers, for their part, would allow their eye to be caught by the modest paragraphs, sigh inwardly that they should be subjected to such rubbish, and devour it hungrily.

Such is the unspoken contract between a respectable English newspaper and you and me, its respectable English readers. We do not wish it to be supposed that we care for gossip, titillate and prying references to the private peccadilloes of public figures: but (how shall we put this?) we would not wish to remain altogether uninformed.

If research could decide such matters, I would place two apparently contradictory bets: first that the unassuming little article ("Lamont credit leak angers No 10") which Friday's Times placed at the bottom of the front page was the item in that day's edition that most readers read with most interest; second, that more prominent coverage of the story would have displeased them. We desire to know these things, but we also distrust that desire.

We should not. It is time for the upper middle-classes to follow the working-class lead, and embrace their prurience without apology.

By that I do not mean that we should all go around being shocked at the behaviour of the great and the good and calling on each other to resign. I don't think (any more than the readers of The Sun really do) that carelessness over an Access bill disqualifies Mr Lamont from office. That his credit card and his chancellorship both involve money is a false linkage, the qualities required to be Chancellor being different from those required to use an Access card. Access may not care for the swashbuckling approach, but it might be just what recession-bound Britain needs: and a transport minister's haemorrhoids are of no less interest than his speeding conviction simply because public curiosity about the former is harder to rationalise.

There is nothing wrong with curiosity about politicians' personal secrets: it is our attempt to rationalise it which causes the trouble. Because we are ashamed, we construct po-faced justifications for discussing such matters. We seize upon facile arguments—such as saying that private wealth invalidates a minister's claim to care about quality, or that marital problems might hamper him from piloting a divorce bill through committee.

Of course, all we are really interested in is the gossip about one fellow's yacht or another's mistress: but we invent pious arguments for our prurience. We end up sucking ministers for the wrong reasons. Paradoxically, it is the finger-wagging by respectable newspapers at the popular ones which encourages this because the cry becomes "justify your gossip or desist" and, as journalists will never desist, harmful rationalisation begins. Peeping Toms never did anyone any harm: it is Peeping Presbyterians who are the threat.

We should be more honest about ourselves and more intuitive about others. The truth about ourselves is that we enjoy gossip for its own sake. The truth about others is that we learn much from observing details of personal life, but what we learn is too subtle to translate into facile headlines about "resignation issues". Without ever having learnt anything which of itself convinced me that any minister should resign, my experience of affairs of state and the affairs of statesmen is that little things are the most revealing of all.

For will an ambitious politician not have adjusted the big, obvious elements of his life to suit the hour? If so, is it not the small, unconscious elements which will reveal most? What a Chancellor announces about his fiscal rectitude is what he and his colleagues have decided we should hear. But when he selected the shoes he wears, he may have acted instinctively. So what his shoes say about him is probably more important than what he says about the balance of payments. "It is only shallow people," said Wilde, "who do not judge by appearances."

When you read a letter from someone you have never met, are you not struck by the ink he uses and the way he forms his o's as by what he says? Or take moustaches. I have never met an Englishman who had a moustache who was not slightly vain. And if a cabinet minister was talking to me—as portentously as you please—about his plans for defence, or industry, I should speak to his chauffeur or glance at his fingernails before evaluating his argument.

I am far from saying that habits of private rectitude, sartorial elegance or personal hygiene translate simply into fitness for office. On the contrary, a man who has obviously spent half an hour on his socks, or had time to blow-dry his hair, has all but disqualified himself from high office. A passionate—even disgraced—loverlife can be a positive recommendation, and if you could have persuaded me that Sir Geoffrey Howe was a secret transvestite nothing would have dimmed my enthusiasm for his becoming Tory leader. I care not a hoot that Mr Lamont owes Access, but am relieved to know that he is (as Anthony Howard says) one of life's bookmakers rather than bishops. You don't need bishops in a recession.

Private lives do not add up, in any simple way, to public credit or disgrace. But they have an arithmetic of their own which readers of The Sun understand very well, and readers of The Times would be foolish to ignore.

The Chancellor's difficulties are a distraction from the government's predicament, says Peter Riddell

Why Lamont need not go

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

Just when you thought it was safe to come out again... Every time John Major thinks the worst is over, a new horror appears. The latest allegations about Norman Lamont's legal fees are a distraction from the Major government's real predicament, but they damage its standing.

Whatever the specific rights and wrongs, the weekend's headlines epitomise widespread public doubts about the government. It is not just that ministers are accident-prone but that they also appear helpless in the face of events—whether the attitudes of fellow European governments, the markets or the latest press disclosures. With few exceptions, the Major team does not inspire confidence. That is partly because the wave of departures since the late Thatcher years has removed most of the cabinet's heavyweights.

In the immediate future, there is no reason why Mr Lamont should resign because of overrunning his credit card limit or because the Treasury paid part of his legal fees over a public dispute about his tenant. Innuendo about his private life is irrelevant. While grey areas exist about rules on payment of

the legal costs of ministers, there is no evidence that Mr Lamont behaved improperly as Chancellor. The real issue is breaches of confidentiality over private financial records. Apart from the usual whiff of British sanctimony, that should be the end of the matter. But it will not be.

Mr Lamont has seemed the weak link in a government trying to rebuild its defences. In some ways this is unfair on him. The critical decision to enter the exchange-rate mechanism was initiated by John Major, not by him. And the subsequent policies, including the withdrawal from the ERM nearly 11 weeks ago, were all backed by the prime minister and endorsed by the cabinet. Mr Lamont has also shown personal resilience, in his Commons performances and in the Autumn Statement, which have given the government a breathing space, whatever the longer-term problems over public spending and borrowing. Only just over two weeks ago he was being cheered by Tory MPs.

One senior minister suggested to me last week that the Autumn Statement marked a turning point. It was not just the specific measures, though these were skilfully put together. It was rather the fact that the cabinet could agree a package at all. Under the old procedures, the cabinet was presented with a *fait accompli* by the Chancellor. But now, the whole cabinet has itself to consider a series of detailed options for spending.

The senior minister argued that agreement on such a package reflected the leadership and conciliatory talents of Mr Major, also shown in his handling of the Queen's finances. The prime minister also pushed the new growth strategy. The cabinet's nerve has steadied after the almost daily crises of the early autumn, as typified by Mr Major's hasty and damaging

concession to party critics over the timing of debates on the Maastricht Bill, which has weakened Britain's hand in the EC. But ministers have now recovered their self-confidence, and their willingness to think about the long term. There have been a series of policy announcements in the past few weeks, about the BBC, Sunday trading, the citizen's charter, the council tax and the like. The government has not frozen up. The Tory manifesto is being implemented.

In the Commons itself, the temperature has fallen. Political life cannot continue for ever at the feverish levels of September and October. Tory MPs looked over the brink into the abyss during the "paving" debate of November 4 over the Maastricht treaty, and they have now moved back, seeking a quieter life for a time. Moreover, Tory business managers have also learnt some lessons. They have sought to avoid confrontations. The Autumn Statement was designed to please as many as

possible and the two-day economic debate was an anti-climax. Admittedly, passions have been aroused over arms sales to Iran, but mainly on the Labour side. There is little sense among ministers and Tory MPs of another Westland affair in the making.

Even on the Maastricht treaty, all participants seem to want to avoid an all-out battle during the start of the committee stage tomorrow and Wednesday. Instead, there are mainly expected to be procedural skirmishes, like 20 years ago when there were two days of points of order on the original EC entry bill, followed by a motion of no confidence in the chair.

The hope has been that arguments over Maastricht, the pit-closures review, the economy and hospital closures, can be deferred until the new year. Meanwhile, it should be business as usual, to foster the government's convalescence. But in the past few days two events have occurred to threaten these plans. The first has been

the row over the future financing of the European Community. There are still 10 days before the Edinburgh summit for a last-minute deal, but a breakdown there would leave the British presidency looking a failure and would also threaten hopes of agreement on the revised Danish terms, on subsidiarity and on enlargement. The government's EC policy would be in tatters, raising doubts about ratification of the Maastricht treaty.

Second, speculation has already revived over Mr Lamont's future. The Chancellor has believed he has the personal confidence of the prime minister. Until the past few days a reshuffle just after Christmas looked unlikely. Not only would Mr Lamont appear a scapegoat, but possible replacements, such as the widely touted Kenneth Clarke, would split the party even more than now. But the balance may be shifting. Mr Major may have to shuffle his top team if he is rebuild confidence in his administration. Yet such ministerial changes are secondary to whether the government can show that it has regained some control over its fate and is not at the mercy of party critics and of events.

Small steps on freedom's trail

There is a way of measuring human liberty, and among the latest figures is some cause for optimism, finds Bernard Levin

It has been said that all the great fortunes are made by people who have hit upon something that the world did not know it needed, until the discoverer put it under the world's nose—whereupon the world said: "How did we manage without it?"

Such a discovery has been made by a man called Charles Humana, without his making any kind of fortune, but his discovery demonstrates very clearly that the world did indeed need his invention.

At the end of the Seventies, Mr Humana, a journalist and author for Amnesty International when he had his idea: it was to be a complete taxonomy of human rights, a book which would grade every country as to its standing vis-à-vis the human rights of its people. And it was to be called the *World Human Rights Guide*.

The first hurdle he had to leap was the realisation that it was impossible: how do you compare, except in the vaguest and most haphazard terms, the human rights enjoyed by, say, the citizens of New Zealand and those of Saudi Arabia, those of Papua New Guinea and Portugal, Bolivia and Singapore, Cuba and Denmark?

His answer was rather like the secret of the billionaires: just as they sold the world what it wanted, so Mr Humana's impossible problem solved itself in a moment of inspiration. He would, he decided, draw up a list of 40 items, each of them testing the quality of human rights in one aspect. To give you an idea, I shall run through some of the test questions.

Can the citizens travel freely in their own country? Can they publish and educate in their own language? Is there imprisonment without trial? Is there political and legal equality for women? Are there independent newspapers? Are courts totally independent? Are the citizens, when prosecuted, considered

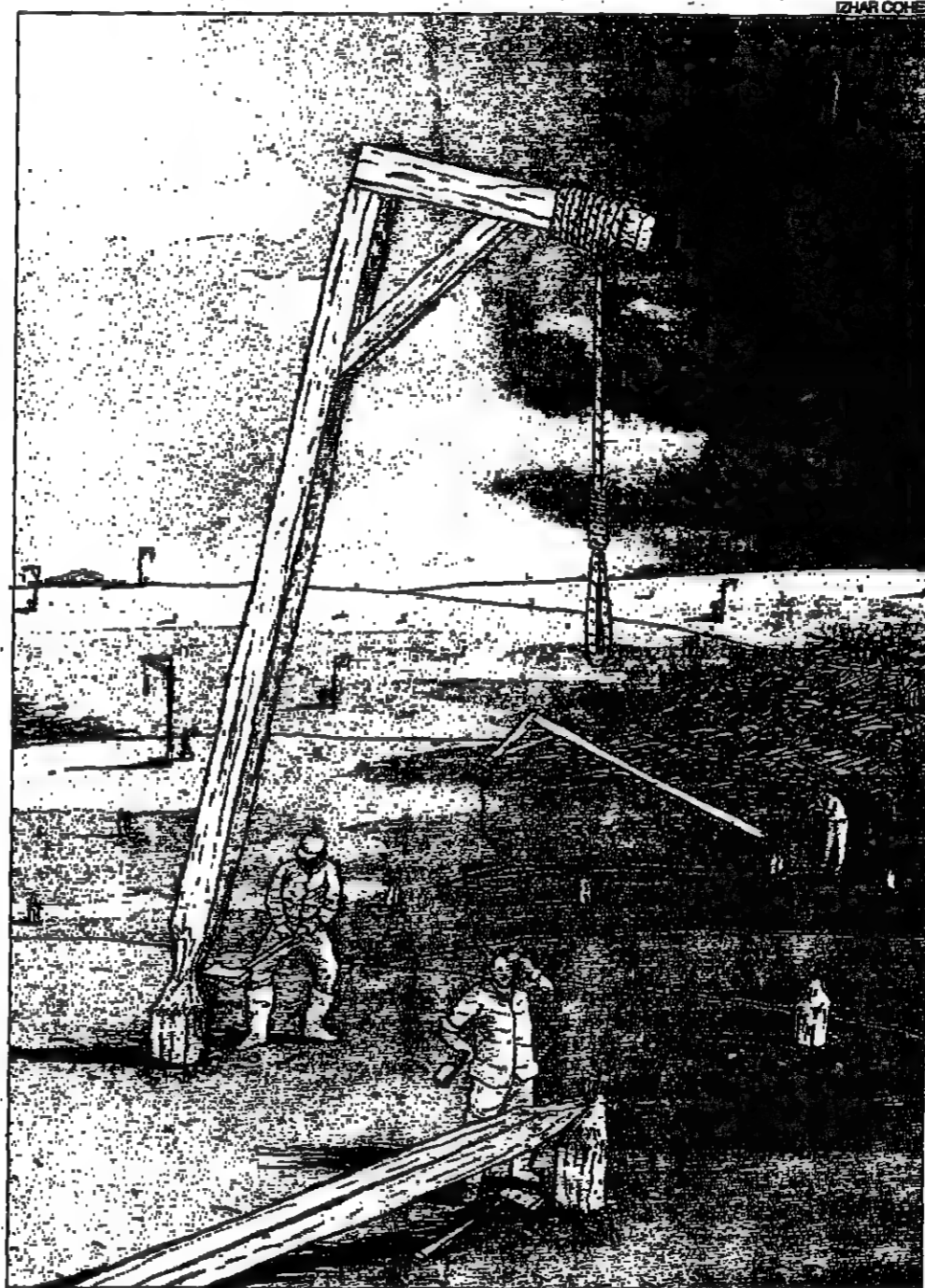
innocent until proved guilty? Is there equality of the sexes in divorce proceedings? Is there freedom to practice homosexuality between consenting adults? Are there multi-party elections by secret and universal ballot?

And so on. Because sometimes a plain yes or no does not exactly fit the conditions enquired into, there are six gradations of possible answers. There is then a complex mathematical procedure for "translating" the answers into a percentage, and for every country examined has a single figure, out of 100, and that figure is the "human rights rating" of that country.

Take my word for it (better still buy the book); it works. The insoluble problem—how to make such tables meaningful, trustworthy and usable as a research tool—has been solved. It really does mean something when you read that Ghana has a human rights rating of 53, that Angola has a rating of 27, and Belgium has a rating of 96.

Mr Humana published his first edition in 1983, and immediately realised that such a work would have to be regularly brought up to date if it was to continue to be an indispensable document. That was not easy: to get reliable statistics and evidence had often been difficult; he never forgot that giving information was, in many countries, dangerous, and at what cost the information might have been given.

After publishing his first edition with considerable difficulty, he realised that he had to have resources greater than his own: The Economist took over the second edition, and now the OUP has taken on the admirable burden for the third edition, which has just been published. With all that background, we now turn to the most important question: is the world's human rights rating going up or going down? Oddly enough, the question is not easily answered. For one thing, there are more



countries surveyed in this edition than in the previous ones. And there is one element in the figures which distorts comparison almost to breaking point. But, yes, the world can be congratulated on achieving a significant rise in its rating.

In the 1986 edition, the average human rights rating over all countries surveyed was 55 per cent; in this edition (it closed for press in November 1991) the average was 62 per cent. But between the two editions the longest-for Russian revolution had taken place. Just look at these figures: they are the human rights ratings before and after the collapse of the Soviet Empire.

The Soviet Union before, 20 per cent; after (at the dissolution), 54 per cent. Romania before, 20 per cent; after, 32 per cent. Bulgaria before, 23 per cent; after, 83 per cent. Poland before, 41 per cent; after, 83 per cent. Czechoslovakia before, 36 per cent; after, 97 per cent. Hungary before, 55 per cent; after, 97 per cent. East Germany before, 33 per cent; after (unification), 98 per cent.

though a few countries have thrown over a tyranny in the interim: Chile, for instance, which had a rating of 35 per cent in 1986, now has one of 80 per cent.

The maps in the book tell a grim story. Take the map of Africa, and put it on the triple-measure that the book uses: black indicates "most human rights denied", grey means "many human rights denied", and white means "most human rights respected". Four lonely little patches of white in that vast continent are left to hold up the very idea of freedom: Ivory Coast, Benin, Botswana and Namibia (though a rating figure for the last has mysteriously disappeared from the book; the rest of the map is black or grey).

When that expense, though, there is a patch struggling to lighten its colour—a somewhat unfortunate metaphor, since I am talking about South Africa, but I can't help that. In the 1986 edition, South Africa scored 22 per cent, one of the worst ratings in the world; but who could not fail to feel a great hope, on seeing that its rating is now 50 per cent?

Of course, the whole idea of these ratings can be laughed at as a waste of so much dedication. No grant will turn, hear racing, to the appropriate page for his new rating, and at once insinuate a full democracy so that he can get out of the shamefully low figure his country has. Yet if that does not happen, something important still does. The book reminds us of the desperate imperfection of our world, but it also reminds us that perhaps, not very soon and not very quickly, the imperfections may become less imperfect. Why, Fidel Castro himself, the last remaining sardap of the Soviet Empire, may be slowly repenting: between editions he has gone from 24 per cent to 30 per cent.

Let us take heart, though Iran scores 22, China 21, North Korea 20, Sudan 18 and Iraq and Burma 17, there are now 10 countries with a rating of 95 or more, and one of them scores 99. Guess which?

Charles Humana's contribution to human freedom is immense: we owe him a great deal. Alas, we cannot tell him so, for he died while this edition was going through the press.

Screen test for the BBC

MPs, not normally noted for their resistance to free publicity, are threatening to block a BBC documentary on the Palace of Westminster. Having watched Channel 4's *Cutting Edge* film on the House of Lords earlier this month, the MPs have got cold feet about allowing film crews into their lives.

Peers complained that the Channel 4 documentary portrayed the Lords as a Gilbertian farce, concentrating on its quaint traditions and peers' enthusiasm for expenses, ignoring the serious legislative work. Michael Wheeler-Booth, clerk of the Parliament, has taken the unusual step of writing a letter of protest to Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4. His message was summed up by one senior peer, who did not wish to be named: "The documentary has made it highly unlikely that other filmmakers will be allowed access to the Lords. We were stung up. I think it will have repercussions in the Commons."

The decision on the six-part BBC documentary will be taken by the administration committee of the Commons in conjunc-

tion with Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker. One casualty of the earlier film, Lord Healey, who was filmed at some length rehearsing his haltingly with Lord Howe, thinks the BBC will have problems. "I think it unlikely they will get permission unless they give some indication of what sort of a documentary they want to make. If the BBC wants to know why access might be restricted, it is because of Channel 4's grave disservice to the media. It was unbalanced, misused and at times incredibly fatuous. Far too much time was spent showing wedding ceremonies and Geoffrey and me dressing up for the ceremony."

Lord Tebbit, who as Tory chairman had several run-ins with the BBC, was also wary. "It appears Channel 4 was far more interested in less serious aspects of the House. I hope the BBC will give more responsible treatment. Hope springs eternal in the human breast."

● If Salman Rushdie receives a call from the BBC seeking permission to film him reading from his work he should not be too flattered. The BBC is at last putting together an obituary on the writer who has been under an Iranian death sentence since 1989. "We like to be prepared



DIARY

for all eventualities," says a BBC mole. "So when we discovered that there was no obituary on Rushdie we decided to rectify the situation."

Lingua blanca

JOHN MAJOR'S Mr Europe, Tristan Garel-Jones, came badly unstuck when he tried to show off his linguistic prowess at a debate on subsidiarity during a European parliament. During a debate on subsidiarity Garel-Jones, whose wife is Spanish, listened with care to the views of Heriberto Barreia I Costa, a Spanish member of the Rainbow Group, then rattled off a reply in flawless Spanish. He could not understand the deathly silence which followed—his audience, indeed, seemed mortified. Alas, Barreia I Costa comes from the fiercely independent Catalan region, which not only wants to break from Spain but does not recognise

Spanish as the native tongue. Which explains why Garel-Jones was addressed in English.

● First Richard Caborn, chairman of the Commons employment select committee, which is examining the government's pit-closure programme, disappears down a UDM mine in Nottinghamshire, ensuring the press is tipped off in advance. Surprise, surprise: Greville Janner, chairman of the trade and industry committee, which is also holding an enquiry, is also going down a pit. An NUM one. A case of anything you can do, I can do better.

Hard as snails

L'ESCARGOT, the famed Lobo restaurant now in the hands of the administrators, is not going down without a fight. Elena Salvoni, the ebullient manager, has opened a Book of

Encouragement and loyal customers have been busy writing their good wishes that L'Escargot does not slip off the map.

They include Raymond Gubbay and Diana Rigg ("Save the snail"), Gerald Kaufman ("Please let me go on coming here"), James Fox and George Baker ("Elena must be kept going"). It was left to Channel 4, in the shape of Liz Forgan, to strike an intellectual note (*Aux coteaux citoyens!*). Salvoni says: "We are crossing our fingers that we can keep going."

Saving graces

GILLINGHAM, the third-division football club, has sought divine intervention to end one of its worst starts to a season, ascribed by some to a curse hanging over its Priestfield stadium. The bad luck is supposed to date back 50 years to a motor accident involving the then manager of the club which caused the death of a gypsy girl. The club still takes it seriously and has appointed a Roman Catholic priest, Father Kevin McElhinney, as chaplain.

A supporter of the "Gills", Father McElhinney is nevertheless keeping his feet on the ground. Although the club has won its last three home games since he was appointed, he says:



"It will be the biggest comeback since Lazarus if Gillingham do anything this season."

● Jacques Derrida, the French philosopher whose honorary degree caused high-tide turmoil at Cambridge earlier this year, has had an additional honour heaped on his head: a student society has been named after him. Whether it should be taken seriously is a different matter. The Free Derrida Association was set up to "free [him] from these self-imposed existentialist shackles and take deconstructionism to its nadir". Hamish Renton, the FDA's co-founder, says: "We are inviting him into the mock-Grecian section of McDonald's to discuss his philosophy."



A MINISTER'S MONEY

Openness is the best guard against laxity

Norman Lamont was revealed yesterday as the recipient of some £20,000 in other people's money to protect his property and his reputation. Justifications followed fast. About £4000, it transpired, came from the taxpayer because the then Permanent Secretary at the Treasury believed such a sum justified rapidly rebutting newspaper allegations about the "vice-gin" in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's basement. About £16,000 came from Conservative party pockets (unspecified but kept full for just this sort of occasion) in order to help a senior member through the legal maze of expelling an unwanted tenant.

No laws were broken. Rules appear to have been upheld. According to the civil service codes, the £4000 could have been authorised on various grounds, including that Mr Lamont's performance as Chancellor was affected by the "vice-gin" revelations, that the expenditure was in the public interest, that the legal action was likely to succeed, and that it might even be efficacious in preventing similar attacks on other ministers in future.

That is a broad rubric for allowing public hand-outs to ministers in distress. Those considering civil disputes with ministers of the crown should take note. It would have been better if these rules had been known outside the magic circles. It is good that they are likely to be better known and drafted now.

As for the money from party sources, most people in politics know that this sort of help is available. Neither party is free of potential taint. The Chancellor has let it be known that he does not know where the money came from, except that it did not come from constituency contributions. Thus it is that those who give such help are supposed not to know who their beneficiaries are. Thus it is also that those who receive such help are not beholden. Although Britain has barely begun the downward journey into corruption that America has travelled in this regard, publicity is the great protection here. The weekend revelations should again be a

useful reminder to all. Questions can still be asked about Mr Lamont himself. Did he ask for money from the Treasury and, if so, was he sensible to do so? Should he not have chosen a cheaper route to rebut allegations on a subject that was wholly personal? The attitude of "L'état, c'est moi" is an affliction that comes with long habit of high office; but Mr Lamont did not seem to see himself as potentially diseased. If he was offered the money unbidden by the Treasury, was the Treasury not identifying its interests too closely with the standing of its political master? Was it not Mr Lamont's responsibility to ensure that this error not be made?

The Chancellor's supporters are, not surprisingly, affronted by the whole affair. In particular, they cite the coincidence of the revelations with the continuing saga of Mr Lamont's credit card debts, and the row over exactly what and when he purchased at Paddington off-licences. It would, indeed, be outrageous if a pattern of conspiracy were proved in the Chancellor's troubles with the Thresher off-licence chain, the Access company and with his eviction bills. Anyone can be forgiven for asking himself why so much of one man's private laundry should be hung out to public view in the same week.

So far, however, there is no evidence of a co-ordinated plot. The sadder and surer truth is that there are so few reasons for a political conspiracy. Mr Lamont is a powerful man whose job is both resented and coveted by many. But what does he stand for that would merit his systematic diminution by rumour? He is a Euro-sceptic who has long mouthed Europhile policies. Could either side in the European debate be sure of benefiting from his downfall?

Perhaps it is considered as simple sport that a minister be made to squirm as Mr Lamont has been. If so, we should ask ourselves whether the hunter does not always catch the weakened fox. If the Government were built on greater principle, its leaders would more easily avoid attack and less readily fall down rabbit holes.

PREVENT THE EPIDEMIC

The world must step up the battle against the deadly disease

As a "killer of the fittest" the progress of the AIDS epidemic through Africa, Asia and other parts of the developing world has been devastating. By targeting fit young adults — the backbone of the labour force — the disease is debilitating vulnerable economies as well as inflicting a dreadful human toll.

Half a million AIDS cases have so far been recorded worldwide, a total set to grow to between 1.2 and 1.8 million by the year 2000, when from 40 to 100 million may be infected with the HIV virus. Developing countries, in which the bulk of these cases will occur, face a double burden — from the disease and from the threat to their development prospects.

Here in Britain, the picture looks better, as we mark World Aids Day tomorrow. Europe is less severely affected than other parts of the world, and Britain has one of the lowest rates of AIDS cases, less than a third that in Spain, France or Switzerland and less than half that in Italy. We have one of the lowest rates of heterosexually acquired AIDS and of that among injecting drug users in the European Community. Among homosexuals, still the chief victims of the disease in Britain, HIV infections may be declining. In each of the last two years the recorded number of HIV positive tests among homosexuals has fallen by about 10 per cent.

There is a temptation to believe that, here in Britain at least, the AIDS crisis is over and it is time to rein back on AIDS campaigns. An AIDS industry has grown up that in some areas is showing signs of becoming bloated.

AIDS campaigns have been hijacked by organisations on the madder fringes, with political agenda that have little to do with prevention of disease or relief of suffering.

However, we should beware of reducing our efforts to control the epidemic. Complacency in the face of a declining level of infection would spell disaster. AIDS can never be beaten, because there are always new generations becoming sexually mature. Sexually transmitted diseases are commonest in the under 25s, the most sexually active group with the highest number of partner changes. The preventive message on AIDS needs hammering home year in, year out, for each new cohort of young people.

At the same time, Britain cannot rely on its island status to insulate it from the progress of the epidemic elsewhere. Large numbers of British citizens have family connections in Africa and Asia where the disease is now raging. The greater movement of workers within the European community will increase the risks.

There remains great uncertainty about the future course of the epidemic — although we know that if no more people were infected from today another 400,000 cases of AIDS would develop in Europe alone. It depends on patterns of sexual mixing on which light will be thrown later this week by the publication of a survey of sexual behaviour. But continued vigilance and unrelenting effort will be needed if future generations are to give us credit for preventing the epidemic that never happened.

EVERYMAN AS SLOCUM

Gentlemen circumnavigators excite admiration, not envy

Last night the vanguard of 140 amateur yachtsmen and women began their passage around what can be voted, without hyperbole of superlatives, the most awful place on earth. At Cape Horn the winds blow at gale force on most days, and are classified meteorologically as very stormy even when they do not. Waves, slopping unrestricted around the Earth's surface in a belt 2,000 miles wide, are squeezed through Drake's Passage between Terra del Fuego and the Antarctic Peninsula, and can swell as high as 120 feet. Previous sailors in these waters have given the experience a gloomy reputation. Darwin, from the Beagle, wrote: "The atmosphere in this climate, where gale succeeds gale, with rain, hail, and sleet, seems blacker than anywhere else."

Because of the vast monotony of the seven seas, long-distance sailing has been compared to eating an elephant with a knife and fork. Rounding Cape Horn in one of these yachts is like using a teaspoon to eat a bull elephant alive and in the state of mouth. Even when they have fought their way round Cape Horn over the next day or two, the 140 competitors in the British Steel Challenge race around the world are in for no halcyon boating trip. They will face the full force of the low pressure systems sweeping around the Roaring Forties, furious Fifties and Screaming Sixties. Icebergs will always loom over the tossing horizons, any skin left exposed will be burnt with frostbite. Apart from all that, there is the sea-sickness, and the possibility that the gulls will wash them down with every wave. For

this privilege, the competitors are paying £15,000 each. They come in both sexes and in ages from 22 to 62. Most of them are playing truant from middling occupations and backgrounds; few if any of them are Hooray Henriks or Henriettas; and three-quarters of them had never sailed before training for this little jaunt.

When faced with such recklessness, the land-lubber might say that an amateur circumnavigator needs not just nerves of steel, but a head of bone. As one who never saw the point of the sea observed, twenty centuries ago: "It is lovely to stand on dry land when the sea is high, and the winds are stirring up the waves, not because of *schadenfreude*, but because it is lovely to realise what a rough time you are missing." From what the yachtsmen and women say, about looking forward to the champagne at Hobart, part of the attraction is that of hitting one's head against an iceberg, because it is such a relief when one stops.

But this is to misunderstand the romance of sailing across the wakes of Drake and Joshua Slocum, Sir Francis Chichester and Robin Knox-Johnston. This is the age when everyman, and every woman, can play heroes and heroines, if they choose, because of the miracles of modern technology. Circumnavigating the world makes a change from commuting on the Circle Line, even though it sometimes seems quicker. Today's terrifying accounts of the amateurs rounding Cape Horn excite admiration. Even if most readers thank their lucky stars, with Lucretius, that they are still on dry land.

Nuclear treaty obligations

From Lord Melchett, Executive Director of Greenpeace UK

Sir, As your editorial "Arms to Iraq" (November 14), pointed out, the licensing of exports by Matrix Churchill, some of which may have a nuclear potential, could well be in contravention of article 1 of the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). It is surprising this was not brought up in the House of Commons debate (report, November 23).

A crucial decision on whether to extend or abolish the 25-year-old treaty will be taken in 1995. This latest revelation adds to the growing impression that Britain, although a depositary state, has scant regard for its treaty obligation "not in any way to assist" any country to acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Worldwide reprocessing contracts being sought by British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. for its thermal oxide reprocessing plant (Thorp), in which plutonium will be returned to the country of origin, may also contravene article 1 of the NPT. John Guinness, BNFL's chairman, has said he will "encourage strenuous efforts already being made in BNFL to establish new markets overseas".

BNFL has already opened an office in Seoul to market nuclear services, including reprocessing, despite the fact that South Korea is on the DTI's list of sensitive destinations for nuclear exports because of proliferation concerns. The Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Michael Howard, told Greenpeace in September that it was inconceivable anyone should supply plutonium to North or South Korea.

However, we calculate that if Thorp is allowed to open, BNFL will export 40 tonnes of plutonium to Western Europe, Canada and Japan in the first decade of operation, enough for 4,000 nuclear warheads. The following ten years could see another 40 tonnes exported, with the list of importing countries perhaps growing to include Latin America, Eastern Europe, South Africa, South Korea and Taiwan.

The UK government's refusal to announce a moratorium on nuclear weapons testing and BNFL's worldwide drive to market its reprocessing facilities are adding to an image of the UK as determined and irresponsible nuclear proliferators.

Yours sincerely,
PETER MELCHETT,
Executive Director,
Greenpeace UK,
Canbury Villas, N1,
November 25.

Energy policy

From Professor Ian Fells, FENG

Sir, The fast reactor programme is to be abandoned, a decision seen as inevitable by Lord Marshall of Goring (article, November 23). I suppose that the then fast reprocessing plant (Thorp) at Sellafield will be the first energy plant to be abandoned if the thrust of your leader of November 23 gains acceptance; and then what?

No doubt we will pull out of fusion power development because it is expensive and, like the fast reactor, we may not need it for some time and, after all, what did posterity ever do for us?

We are already closing down coal mines as fast as we can; the fact that coal will be vital in the early years of the next century seems to cut no ice with the government. But then, we have more or less abandoned our lead in clean-coal technology to the Swedes, Finns, Germans and Americans, so that is another business opportunity lost.

The short-termism of this government takes one's breath away. In Thorp we have a world lead in the technology of effectively dealing with the spent, highly radioactive fuel from nuclear power stations and safely storing the radioactive waste, not leaving it slowly to rot in a store as a legacy to our grandchildren.

The lost international business and the devastation of the industrial base of west Cumbria would be an inevitable consequence.

By abandoning the fast reactor, which we will certainly need in the first 20 or 30 years of the next century, particularly as energy demand escalates with huge population growth in the developing world, we throw away the prospect of a secure electricity supply for 500 years or more. It is a proven technology that requires some further development but we know it works.

As most of our energy decisions at the present time seem to devolve on accountability let us at least get the costs right, whether they be of electricity generation from coal, gas or nuclear or of processing or storing spent nuclear fuel.

Few believe the figures bandied about in select committees by the various interested parties. Let us set up a small, objective energy-accounting unit at one of our seats of learning and turn to them when we want an unbiased, independent view of energy costs; then at least we will make our energy policy decisions, whether short or long-term, from a sound base.

Yours faithfully,
IAN FELLS,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
Department of Chemical and Process Engineering,
Marx Court,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

School examination league tables: fair or fallacious?

From the Headmistress of the Godolphin School

Sir, Like Simon Jenkins ("Patten's appalling joke", November 21), I am increasingly alarmed by the way education is becoming a political gimmick, manipulated to suit current dogma, and dangerously moving towards centralisation in the name of accountability and parental choice.

I was one of the 25 per cent of the heads of independent schools who took part voluntarily in the examination league tables published by the Department for Education on November 18. I did so in the belief that parents are entitled to information and we should be as open as possible as part of a constructive partnership. I expected the government to endeavour to make the exercise fair.

In the event, it proved to be a nonsense exercise, revealing large numbers of statistical errors and "great truths" that affluent areas in the country have "better" schools, at least as far as results go. Of course middle-class areas produce advantaged children, and these will ultimately be better examination fodder.

The damage to individual schools, to the teaching profession and above all to the children may be immense, as a large number of schools, even a majority, face glib judgments and consequent demoralisation. In these times of financial hardship, surely £1.4 million could have been spent more effectively and provoked less ridicule.

Yours faithfully,
HILARY FENDER, Headmistress,
The Godolphin School,
Milford Hill,
Salisbury, Wiltshire,
November 23.

From the Headmaster of Friern Barnet Grammar School

Sir, The introduction of the school exam league tables is the single most important piece of educational reform that has been made in this country since Rab Butler's 1944 Education Act. For decades the inside operators of the English educational establishment have contrived to protect the general public and the ministers of Her Majesty's government from the raw truth.

They have done this by deploying suffocating volumes of fudge and waffle whenever the issue of standards has been raised. Now their bluff has been called. Their circumlocutions and periphrases are redundant.

Now ordinary citizens have to hand what they have long needed. They have the truth. The most significant raw data that can be assembled about the performance of schools have been made openly available to all. And they have been made available in a fair, intelligible and comprehensive way. Mr Patten's league tables represent a triumph for the freedom of information in our democracy.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PEARMAN,
Headmaster,
Friern Barnet Grammar School,
Friern Barnet Road, N11,
November 22.

Masked police

From Dr N. A. H. Damay

Sir, Those of us who desire improvements in the police service will have been discouraged by the statement on your front page (November 24) that a boat, which turned out to be empty, was stormed by armed, masked policemen.

The issue of masks to any police-men, especially armed ones, is cause for grave concern. In the case of accidental or unlawful injury to a suspect or bystander it would be impossible to identify the culprit. A properly conducted police force has no need to hide behind balaclavas. Law upheld by incognito poses is no law. The police force should repudiate such protection.

Yours faithfully,
N. A. H. DAWMAY,
24 Almond Grove,
Bar Hill, Cambridgeshire,
November 24.

Vocational training

From Mr Leif Mills

Sir, Your thoughtful leading article (November 23) rightly calls on the government to clear up the mess in vocational training. We need to develop a new culture whereby every employee has an entitlement to lifelong learning.

National vocational qualifications, based on employment-led standards, can attest the competence of people at work but must have breadth and balance. Equally, academic qualifications must be reformed. Students entering employment or higher education need much more than the current narrow three A levels.

A recent NOP survey for the TUC found that almost seven out of ten workers wanted to develop their skills, but over two thirds thought that most employers do not provide sufficient training. More than eight out of ten think that unions should bargain for better training opportunities.

The TUC believes that as a first step employers should have the right to a minimum of five days' paid education and training each year. Large and medium-sized employers would be required to invest a proportion of their payroll in training.

From Professor C. T. Fitz-Gibbon

Sir, Publication of exam league tables may lead to attacks on examinations per se. Any such attack should be supported by proposals for feasible alternatives.

The development of the UK examination system, in my view, is an outstanding achievement. Examination boards provide the fairest method of quality assurance available and may become the only means of keeping a competitive market honest.

Alas, the high-quality professional work which characterises the examination boards falls down on one small detail which may be vital: candidates' names and the schools they attend are on the examination scripts when they are marked. Is a script from Eton marked with the same mind-set as a paper from an inner city comp? Is one reason the North East of England receives lower grades simply some beliefs about pupils in the North East?

We shall not know until this flaw in examining procedures is removed. Candidate numbers are used in Northern Ireland. Scripts from each institution are at least distributed among markers in Scotland. When are the English examination boards going to adopt proper procedures to assure unbiased marking?

Yours faithfully,
C. T. FITZ-GIBBON,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
School of Education,
Curriculum, Evaluation and Management Centre,
St Thomas' Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
November 18.

From Miss E. M. Candy and Mr G. G. Able

Sir, Lady Blatch, Education Minister, recently suggested to the Girls' Schools Association that it was "too difficult" and "inappropriate" for the Department for Education to use the criteria of school year groups instead of age cohorts when publishing GCSE and A-level results.

It would seem to us that recent secretaries of state, including Mr Patten, have espoused policies which encourage pupils to be educated at a pace appropriate to each individual: surely this is consistent with the use of year groups rather than age cohorts for statistical purposes?

Furthermore, we would find it very disappointing if such a task were to prove too difficult for the combined thinking power of the DFE.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH CANDY
(Headmistress,
The Lady Eleanor Holmes School),
GRAHAM ABLE
(Headmaster,
Hampton School),
Hamworth Road,
Hampton, Middlesex,
November 19.

From Mr John Midgley

Sir, I welcome the publication of league tables for school examination results. This is a long overdue step

towards opening up our school system and establishing clearer lines of accountability between the schools and those they are there to serve — pupils and parents.

When we can see the results of the standard assessment tests at the ages of seven, 11 and 14, together with GCSE results, a picture will be developed of a child's progression throughout school. Moreover, interested parents will be able to place their child's public test results in context with those achieved in classroom tests, which good teachers do the whole year round.

I do not agree with the call in your leader (November 19) for a measurement taking into account the social deprivation of an area. Such a measurement is extremely subjective. It would provide a library of excuses and dampen expectations.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MIDGLEY
(Member, Conservative National
Advisory Committee on Education),
14 Hope Street,
Leigh, Lancashire,
November 19.

From Mr David Monro

Sir, Simon Jenkins's suggestion that the Education Secretary should have made allowances in the examination league tables for socio-economic background defies common sense. Any system for doing so would be highly subjective and a recipe for encouraging prejudice.

We should credit those who use the tables with some intelligence. Parents are well aware of background differences, and far more acutely so in their district than any points system could accommodate.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MONRO,
30 Bedford Place,
Bloomsbury Square, WC1,
November 23.

From Dr Derek Haylock

Sir, The Times may be forgiven for perpetrating the computer error which listed all Norfolk schools under North Yorkshire, and vice versa, in your league tables of examination results (November 19). But you cannot be forgiven for the error of judgment which led to the publication of ordered lists such as the one with Norwich High School for Girls at the top and The Hall Special School, Old Carlton, at the bottom.

To include in the same ranking a selective, independent, fee-paying, privileged girls' school and a special school for pupils with severe learning difficulties is both irresponsible and offensive.

Your abuse of the statistics provided by the Department for Education demonstrates precisely why there is so much unease about the whole exercise.

Yours etc.,
DEREK W. HAYLOCK,
University of East Anglia,
School of Education,
Norwich, Norfolk NR4 7TJ,
November 20.

Wisdom of youth

From Lord Justice Rose

Sir, Your leading article on the age of judges (November 24), advocating appointment "before they qualify for a free bus pass", was intermittently amusing but sadly inaccurate. I confine myself to two points:

1. All of the 13 judges appointed to the Queen's Bench Division since April 1990 were aged under 56 at the outset of their judicial careers and ten of them were under 52. The two youngest were 46. Two are women.

2. If knowledge of the Beatles is a useful criterion, as you appear to believe, 35-year-olds seem unlikely to provide 50-year-olds with much competition.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER ROSE,
Royal Courts of Justice,
Strand, WC2.

Pounds out of pocket

From Ms Patricia Tyrrell

Sir, Undoubtedly some of the money lost by Mr Simon Grice due to exchange-rate fluctuations (letter, November 24) is now lining my pockets. I receive a monthly social security payment from the US government; this payment is initially calculated in dollars but paid to me in Britain in sterling. In early September the pound stood at around \$2; the rate today is about \$1.51. Sorry, Mr Grice.

Yours truly,
PATRICIA TYRRELL,
17 Century Court,
Forth, Newquay, Cornwall.

From Mr Robert A. H. Marsden-Smedley

Sir, Surely the problem which Mr Grice has encountered is a clear case of what the government would describe as "invisible earnings"?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT A. H. MARSDEN-SMEDLEY,
33 Novello Street, SW6.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

سك ان الفضل

OBITUARIES

SIR SIDNEY NOLAN

Sir Sidney Nolan, OM, AC, CBE, Australia's most celebrated painter of the 20th century, has died in London aged 75. He was born in Melbourne on April 22, 1917.

SIDNEY Nolan was a born painter with magical gifts, who arrived on the scene at just the right time to make a major contribution to Australia's collective imagination and sense of national identity. Beginning as an abstract artist he turned to figurative painting and in a series of Australian landscapes — and the figures he placed in them — he was able to embody the essence and atmosphere of the island continent and to give it its own mythology. He made his name on the international stage with his pictures of the notorious outlaw Ned Kelly, whose fame actually preceded the artist to Europe in the post-war years. These and his desert scenes communicated Australia's sense of strangeness, which Nolan was able to describe in a pictorial idiom that was haunting and poetic.

Sidney Robert Nolan was a sixth-generation Australian of Irish descent on both sides of his family. His father was a tram-driver and his grandfather had been a police officer in Victoria at the time of the Ned Kelly gang; from him, Sidney heard many stories about the exploits of this legendary folk-hero, Australia's Robin Hood.

Nolan's first interests were cycling and athletics. But he took art classes from the age of 12, received a training in craftsmanship at technical school, and attended night school at the Melbourne Gallery school — where, however, he dodged the drawing classes to read Rimbaud and Ouspensky in the library upstairs. Employment from the age of 14 to 21 in the design and promotion department of Fairfax & Gowers gave him an early ability in using spray paints and other mixed media not normally employed in fine art, which was to stand him in good stead later.

From 1937 to 1940 he was only interested in European art: imitating Klee, Picasso, and the then little-known Kurt Schwitters in collage. However, in 1938 he came into the circle of the wealthy art patrons John and Sunday Reed, who were the sole support of the young Australian artists Arthur Boyd, Tucker, Perceval, Vassiliou and subsequently Nolan himself. Nolan lived in their house at Heidelberg, near Melbourne, for several years, involved in both poetry and illustrations for the avant-garde magazine *Angry Penguins*.

Drafted into the army in 1942 and isolated at a training-camp at Dimboola amidst miles of wheatfields in the Wimmera district of Victoria, Nolan, bored with military life, began to paint the particular light of Australia on this landscape.



the strangeness of the perspectives it produces, and the way that this strong sunlight, as he said, "isolates objects" — making the most dramatic events curiously static and timeless.

This observation of Australian light was an immediate contribution to national landscape painting, freeing it from romantic European models. To this Nolan soon added subject-matter from local stories and life, using the anti-glym of child art, which Vassiliou had adopted. Putting this together with his understanding of European Surrealism and abstraction, and his fluent painting skills, Nolan arrived, in 1945, at the perfect amalgam of all this, his first Ned Kelly pictures.

The Ned Kelly story bites deep into the Australian subconscious — "a public shame and a private pride" it has been called. A wild young Irishman born in 1855 and hanged for murder and theft in 1880 after two years of battles against the police and raids on banks, wearing homemade armour, Kelly issued a series of crudely idealistic public calls for social justice and revenge; his last words as the noose was put around his neck were "Such is life". His

courage, violence, rough justice, and revolt against authority appealed to the imagination of this ex-penal colony; his last words typify the laconic, sardonic realism of Australian speech; and his career has been said to exemplify that Australian national existentialism which admires purposeful action without believing that this has any ultimate value. "Might as well give it a burn" (whirl).

Nolan intended the subject-matter as ironic commentary on the Australian psychology. For background, he had all the paradoxes of Australian landscape: three million square miles of ancient earth of which one-third is desert, with 10,000 species of flowers, weird animals and birds and a lingering aboriginal presence. This first Ned Kelly series, 1945-47, and the second series in 1954-5, brought world fame to Nolan — though the first showing in Australia was received with embarrassed indifference.

Sir Kenneth Clark discovered Nolan on a visit to Australia in 1949, noting "that truth of tone which is the surest sign of a natural painter"; but he also saw the potential dilemma for

Nolan of whether to leave the source of his inspiration and move to a Europe of wider response to his art. Nolan himself did not see this as a dilemma, believing he could move forward, and from 1953 made Europe his base, from where he visited Italy in 1954 (he was Australian Commissioner at the Venice Biennale of 1954, showing also twelve paintings) and Greece in 1955-6. Then a world tour sponsored by Qantas Airways took him on to Turkey, India and Cambodia: followed in 1957 — the year of his retrospective at the Whitechapel Gallery — by visits to Japan and Mexico. In 1957 he studied engraving and lithography at Hayter's atelier in Paris; from 1958 to 1960 he was in the USA.

Nolan's visit to the Dardanelles inspired a series of 105 paintings — subsequently given to the National Gallery in Melbourne in memory of his younger brother — on the theme of the Gallipoli campaign, that event etched deep in Australian memory, from which Nolan conjured up parallels with the Trojan wars. And in 1957 he provided the dust-jacket illustration for that other Australian cultural event on the world scene: Patrick White's novel *Voss*.

Nolan continued his huge output and bursts of creativity with such projects as *Paradise Garden* of 1970, 768 paintings of indigenous flowers shown as an immense group on a single wall; but despite increasing popularity and Royal patronage, critics believed they detected a falling-away of his powers. His *Leda* and the *Swan* series in 1960 pleased only a few critics; his 1972 exhibition at Marlborough galleries was poorly received; and his *Notes for Oedipus* series in 1976 sold only one painting, and that to his dealer — subsequently returned to him.

He himself said that he needed to get "steamed up" over subject and form to produce good work: Bryan Robertson characterised him as "a magician who occasionally resorts to conjuring tricks in order to prove his magic". Nolan's weakness was that his love of painting was sometimes greater than his imagery. A deeper reason for his failure to follow up Australian mythology with universal mythology was his feeling, on coming to Europe, that the West was in decline. The underlying tragic thread of Nolan's work is that of a waste land — as God's glorious gift, spoilt by man. Lord Clark summed up in 1977: "When time has weeded out his colossal output and the didactic snobbery of abstract art has declined, he will be of even greater renown."

Neglect of Nolan's work in London over three decades was partially redeemed by a splendid retrospective at Folkestone Art Centre in 1979, and later in 1988 when his 1940s work was shown in the context of the

Angry Penguins exhibition at the Hayward Gallery, which introduced his art to a new generation. The catalogue-book accompanying the Australian exhibition *Nolan: Landscapes and Legends* in 1987, which subsequently toured the world, and Nolan's biography, *Such is Life*, by Brian Adams, published in the same year, brought back to the public eye the greatest innovator in Australian art to date.

Nolan completed many theatre projects. His earliest was the commission by Serge Lifar for designs for *Loire* for the De Basil company in Australia in 1939, his most successful, for the opera *Samson et Dalila* by Saint-Saëns at Covent Garden in 1961, with the Australian producer Elijah Moshinsky — a setting in shades of rose, with drop curtains and painted gauzes and 200 costumes, which gained Nolan five curtain calls on the first night. For Covent Garden he had also designed the ballet *Rite of Spring* in 1962 (revived in 1967), and in 1987 provided the décor for *Il Seraglio*. Also, in 1970, Benjamin Britten — whom Kenneth Clark had linked with Nolan in their "reckless innocence" with regard to subjects and media — had toured Central Australia with Nolan; until Britten's death in 1976 they were planning a ballet based on the initiation rites of Australian aboriginal youths, to be set against a chorus of Oxford choirboys, and using the true story of an Oxford suicide on his wedding day.

Nolan's chief personal quality was self-possession. Quiet and abstemious, he had a gentle, diffident charm, with a sharp eye, a poetic quick wit, a toughness of intellect and an openness of imagination, which could be precise and sensible or extremely fantastic. His irreverent humour and enjoyment of the irrational and absurd could lead him, with his gregarious nature, to playing the Australian larrakin on public occasions. He claimed that the misunderstanding of his work by the critics had given him a kind of freedom: "I can work as I did as a boy, knowing that nobody cares."

Sidney Nolan was appointed CBE in 1963 for services to art in Britain — a somewhat ironic honour in terms of Britain, Australia, and the British Empire, perhaps; he was created a Knight Bachelor in 1981 and appointed a member of the Order of Merit in 1983. Finally, he was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1988.

He married Elizabeth Paterson in 1938, by whom he had a daughter; they were divorced in 1942. In 1948 he married Cynthia Hansen (née Reed), who committed suicide in 1974. In 1978 he married Mary Boyd, settling in 1983 on the Welsh border of Herefordshire.

THE MOST REV FRANK WOODS

The Most Rev Frank Woods, KBE, Archbishop of Melbourne, 1957-77, and Primate of Australia, 1971-77, died in Melbourne yesterday aged 85. He was born in Davos, Switzerland, on April 16, 1907.

FOR Frank Woods, the Primacy of Australia was not a glittering prize attained by a self-made man. For him high office was an entrustment for which his whole earlier life had been a guided and conscious preparation.

Born at Davos, where his father Edward, under Theodor, was chaplain, he was educated at Marlborough and Trinity College, Cambridge. Ordained from Westcott House, he spent two years at St Mary's, Portsea, then returned to Trinity as chaplain, finally leaving Cambridge, his home and college base for 17 years, to go as vice-principal to Wells Theological College, 1936-39.

As a Royal Artillery chaplain he was at Dunkirk in 1940 and he was later brought back from the Middle East to run a centre at Tidworth for chaplains' preliminary and refresher courses. A similar house was opened two years later at Assisi for the Mediterranean forces by his younger brother, Robin, who later as Dean of Windsor developed the idea at St George's House in the Castle.

Woods finished the war as senior chaplain in Northern Ireland, then went as vicar to Huddersfield, where he was a Proctor in Convocation and Chaplain to the King. In 1952 he followed his uncle, the Duke of Sutherland, Bishop of Middleton (Manchester). In 1957 he was elected Archbishop of Melbourne.

High office in another country always has pitfalls, as he discovered more than once. The layman's part in a non-established church was new to him, and this was complicated by the grant in 1962 — by the state legislatures but, by a curious oversight, not by the federal parliament — of a constitution conferring independence from Canterbury and judicial powers.

The new church courts' first case concerned one of Woods' own clergy, and the handling of it, marred by over-confidence in legal advisers untrained in church law, was flayed by the media (including the *London New Statesman*). Archbishop Woods was the last Englishman to be brought out to an Australian see. But he was not an ambassador of Canterbury, and did not seek to be one; nevertheless he thought in the Mother Church's mental language.

His fitness to meet the challenge of a large and expanding city was quickly shown by his appointment of a task force — of future bishops and other distinguished clergy — for housing estates too new to have self-supporting parishes and by his establishing in 1961 a permanent Inter-Church Trade and Industry Mission.

His experience of preparing clergy in peace and war served him in good stead and he raised the standard of training. Following the London example, he divided his jurisdiction into regions, each semi-autonomous under a bishop-coadjutor.

From 1968 to 1976 Woods was on the World Council of Churches central committee, and with considerable courage he supported its controversial programme to combat racism. Committee meetings took him periodically overseas, a sign of his deep conviction that the place of the Australian Church lay in the best part of something bigger. Thus, at the WCC New Delhi Assembly in 1968 he travelled unexpected distances to address services and meetings, a WCC resolution on the Jews in Russia.

passed at a meeting in Crete, was endorsed at the Melbourne Synod and set a precedent by being discussed in the United Nations Third Committee at New York.

As Metropolitan of Victoria Woods brought to his see a new sense of responsibility for the much smaller country dioceses, offering exchange appointments and participation in Melbourne's selection system for ordinands, in-service training and the annual theology school. He had a similar outreach to the other denominations, as president of the Australian Council of Churches, 1965-8, in his leading role in that council's working group with the Roman Catholics and in his Ecumenical Affairs Committee to assess the different heritages of the Anglican and Protestant Churches. The Religious Centre at Monash University developed from this committee.



It was largely due to Woods that for the 1973 Eucharistic Congress at Melbourne Anglicans helped to accommodate the visitors, and that over 150 church leaders joined in a seminar on ecumenism. At a meeting in the town hall, after a cardinal from the Vatican had dined for an hour about the time not being ripe to move towards inter-communion, he replied that on the contrary "we are yearning for a catholicity greater and richer than any we have known so far" — and got an ovation. That catholicity was never far from his thinking, as witness the non-Anglican preachers and speakers in his cathedral, and an agreed liturgy for Holy Communion between the denominational colleges at Melbourne University.

For his last six years as archbishop, an appointment that is sometimes little more than a badge of seniority; but not in his case. During those years he of course represented the Church overseas — perhaps most strikingly at the dedication of the new cathedral at Honiara, where in his sermon he recalled and confessed Australian guilt for the blackbirding of fathers, husbands and sons from the Melanesian Islands to work, virtually as slaves, in the Queensland sugar plantations.

To the General Synod, which met only once (1973) during his Primacy, he delivered a memorable charge outlining five hopes: Anglican unity, wider unity, doctrinal revision and unity, development of the ministry and the mission of the church. It was thanks to other men's speeches at that Synod that he changed his till then, rigorous attitude to remarriage of divorcees in church. After retiring he had a series of medical setbacks, but he surmounted them with courage and went on (to quote a tribute of 1977) as a man "deeply responsible and responsive, to the books he reads, the people he meets, the situations he enters and the occasions in which he is called to participate".

He married, in 1936, an Oxford graduate, Jean Sprules. She survives him with their two sons and two daughters.

PERSONAL COLUMN

RENTALS

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NEWS

Major stands by his Chancellor

John Major again stood by his embattled Chancellor after the disclosure that the taxpayer and the Conservative party paid legal bills incurred in evicting a "sex therapist" who rented Norman Lamont's London home.

The prime minister let it be known that he had no intention of demanding the resignation of a Chancellor but as Labour leaders called for Mr Lamont's resignation, influential Tory MPs suggested privately that Mr Major would be forced into a reshuffle earlier than planned. Pages 1, 3

Siege town battered but unbowed

Tim Judah reports from the Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica which has been surrounded by the Serbs for eight months. He joined a convoy which ignored Serbian jeers and found a town battered but still pulsating with life. Page 1, 11

Cost of defeat

The Labour party spent £10.6 million — nearly as much as the Tories — during the last general election campaign, and more during crucial parts of the long pre-election period. Page 2

Labour threat

John Cunningham, the shadow foreign secretary, yesterday left open the door for Labour to try to vote down the Maastricht bill when it reaches its third reading next year. Page 2

Yeltsin confident

President Yeltsin admitted at the weekend that he had made "tactical compromises" in the run-up to tomorrow's crucial Congress of People's Deputies, but said that his strategy was to keep Russia's reforms alive. Page 11

German raids

Police carried out raids across Germany at the weekend on centres of the banned neo-Nazi Nationalist Front, and seized weapons and explosives. Page 12

Golf club terror

The South African government issued an appeal for calm and for people not to take the law into their own hands after four whites were shot dead and 17 people injured by black gunmen at a golf club function. Page 13

University fees

Up to a fifth of university students would pay tuition fees under a Labour plan for affluent families to finance expansion in

higher education. The scheme, put forward in a weekend speech by Jeff Rooker, Labour's higher education spokesman, would reverse the party's traditional support for free tuition. Page 10

Crash criticism

Relatives and friends of the 35 Britons who died in the Nepal air crash two months ago criticised the Foreign Office and a company of international undertakers for lack of information about the identification of victims and plans for a mass funeral. Page 5

Human rights claim

Human rights organisations in Peru claim there has been a rise in violations by security forces since President Fujimori initiated a coup in April when he gave the armed forces increased emergency powers to launch an all-out war against Shining Path guerrillas. Page 13

Tourist country

Crossmaglen, at the heart of south Armagh's "bandit country", is rapidly becoming known around the world for tourism. Golf courses, country inns, restaurants, and theatres are springing up and attracting thousands of visitors from America, France, Italy, and Japan. Page 5

Sunday opening

House of Fraser abandoned its objection to Sunday trading and opened 52 of its 62 stores — but not Harrods — in defiance of the 1950 Shops Act. Page 2

Queen returns to Windsor Castle

Barely a week after a fire destroyed part of Windsor Castle, the Queen was back in residence last night. The Royal Standard was flying above the battlements, and Buckingham Palace confirmed that the Queen had moved back into her apartments. During the fire the rooms were emptied of furniture and paintings and they were unscathed. Page 1



Racial tension: a Kurd and a Turk come to blows during a demonstration against outrages by neo-nazis in Mölin, Germany. Page 12

Anatole Kaletsky: Last week's Green Paper on the BBC was a symbolic setback for the radical economics of the 1980s. The government should be congratulated for preserving a great institution and ignoring the ivory-tower economists. Page 38

Non-executive roles: The Cadbury report on how companies should run themselves will be published tomorrow but proposals on the role of non-executive directors are likely to have been watered down after trenchant. Page 40

Under fire: The European exchange rate mechanism could come under further pressure today as the Irish punt, prime candidate for devaluation, faces the full force of the market for the first time since the elections. Page 40

Bank's bonus: A Royal Bank of Scotland manager has received a £6 million bonus this year on top of a £280,000 salary for running the Direct Line insurance subsidiary. The bonus is related to the company's expansion. Page 40

Sailing: John Chitenden and his crew in Nuclear Electric last night led the British Steel Challenge race around the turbulent waters off Cape Horn. At about 17.00 GMT, Nuclear Electric became the first amateur-crewed yacht to round the Horn. Page 21

Football: Chelsea rose to fifth place in the Premier League by beating Leeds, the champions, 1-0. Page 21

Right results: What should parents think, caught in the crossfire of claims after the publication of GCSE and A-level results? Page 33

Cultural evolution: Every child must learn the key traditions that have made this country what it is, says David Paskall, of the National Curriculum Council. Page 33

Fuming French: The latest Elle magazine blows smoke in the face of those aiming to save the French from Le Tabac. Page 15

Soft skins: Like the white shirt before it, leather is a constant in the wardrobe until the light shines upon it. Page 15

Final bow: Sir Michael Hordern, now 81 years old, is about to open in the West End in what may be his last stage run. Page 29

Ideal casting: Yoko Watanabe makes an utterly convincing heroine in a less than convincing production of *Madame Butterfly*, revived at Covent Garden. Page 30

Pick of the pops: The much-parodied Victorian narrative painting, *And When Did You Last See Your Father?*, is the star attraction of a Liverpool exhibition. Page 31

Stormy weather: Benedict Nightingale is not impressed with Michael Bogdanov's updating of *The Tempest* — the most serene of Shakespeare's dramas. Page 29

Women at work: The National Council of Women's report on work got varied coverage. The *Evening Standard* said "Superwoman finds staying home is best". The *Independent* and *The Guardian* had the opposite view. Page 14

Pregnant women at work: Discrimination during pregnancy is one of the fastest growing areas of enquiry for the Equal Opportunities Commission. Page 14

Peace-maker: In Alexandria, the battered black township abutting Johannesburg's leafy northern suburbs, an English widow is asking questions about shootings and accompanying the police on cordon-and-search operations. Page 14



Lord Tebbit said on *Desert Island Discs* that he once believed he would be prime minister after Margaret Thatcher, as her "natural successor". Page 3



Dick Spring, the Irish Labour leader, said his party would not join a coalition government which was committed to any sort of privatisation. Page 5



Paul Raymond, the girlie magazine publisher and Raymond Revue Bar owner, has overtaken the Duke of Westminster as Britain's richest man. Page 1



Claire Martin is one of six girls being helped by a YTS scheme on a four-year apprenticeship to become a farrier. Page 10

Four aspiring medics approach their final round of nail-biting and revision. An absorbing look at doctors-to-be. Page 39

Lamont's laments

If the Government were built on greater principle, its leaders would more easily avoid attack and less readily fall down holes. Page 17

Campaign against Aids

Continued vigilance and unrelenting effort will be needed if future generations are to give us credit for preventing the epidemic that never happened. Page 17

Everyman as Drake

Last night the vanguard of 140 amateur yachtsmen began their passage around what can be voted, without superlatives, the most awful place on earth. Page 17

BERNARD LEVIN

Mr Humana's impossible problem solved itself in a moment of inspiration. He would, he decided, draw up a list of 40 items, each of them testing the quality of a nation's human rights. We now turn to the most important question: is the world's human rights rating going up or going down? Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

In the immediate future, there is no reason why Mr Lamont should resign because of overrunning his credit card limit or because the Treasury paid part of his legal fees over a public dispute about his tenancy. Immundo about his private life is irrelevant. Page 16

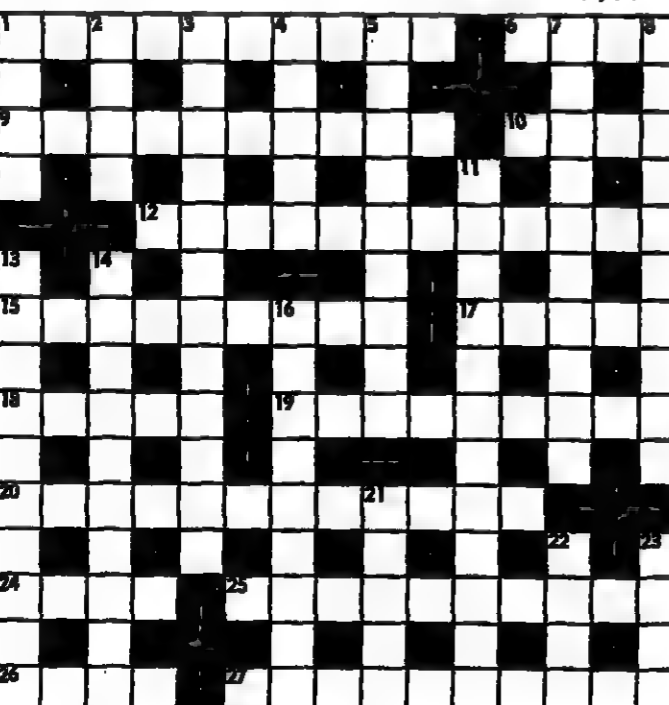
MATTHEW PARRIS

There is nothing wrong with curiosity about politicians' personal secrets: it is our attempt to rationalise it which causes the trouble. Because we are ashamed, we construct post-hoc justifications for discussing such matters. We end up sacking ministers for the wrong reasons. Page 16

Readers take sides on the question of schools' examination league tables. Page 17

It would be wrong to conclude from last week's announcement that Britain is creating a new kind of monarchy. The silver sticks-in-waiting still wait and so does a genuine debate. — *The Independent on Sunday*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,089



- ACROSS
- Treatment of many in an ACAS concern (10).
 - Warriors' claim to be religious (4).
 - Following a course without charge (10).
 - Birds the Cockney offers for sale, we hear (4).
 - Company representative almost feeling satisfaction (12).
 - Sweetheart takes money order on joint holiday (9).
 - The beast may write, say, a letter (5).
 - The pain it causes can be cruel (5).
 - Sketch most of the island with accuracy (9).
 - Nominal leader admits the king is without a real pioneer (12).

- DOWN
- A French appeal for one (4).
 - Plant of which a part is D's perhaps (10).
 - Artist causes girls to lose their heads (4).
 - Port's for Michael and Gabriel, say (10).
 - Pronounced fit for consumption (4).
 - Customs to which Frederick was a slave (4).
 - Monster in car to be destroyed in the compound (12).
 - Walk the ship (5).
 - Decree for one in the artillery (9). I'm at a ruin — a broken-down place in Africa (10).
 - Not aware of being sent in first to one kind of specialist (10).
 - Churchman in agreement over the admission of a saint (12).
 - Collision to cause huff to English driver (10).
 - No-account dentist, perhaps, but he tells a good tale (10).
 - Work with iron and gold for tyrant (9).
 - Cane will make you smart (5).
 - Eyesore partly due to nasty effluent (4).
 - Race for the trees (4).



The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,088 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker.

Concise Crossword, page 40

THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
East of England	702
West of England	703
South of England	704
North of England	705
Scotland	706
Wales	707
North Wales	708
South Wales	709
West Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
London & SE	712
London & SW	713
London & NE	714
London & NW	715
London & E	716
London & W	717
London & S	718
London & N	719
London & SE	720
London & SW	721
London & NE	722
London & NW	723
London & E	724
London & W	725
London & S	726
London & N	727

Weather forecast is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE	731
London & SW	732
London & NE	733
London & NW	734
London & E	735
London & W	736
London & S	737
London & N	738
London & SE	739
London & SW	740
London & NE	741
London & NW	742
London & E	743
London & W	744
London & S	745
London & N	746
London & SE	747
London & SW	748
London & NE	749
London & NW	750
London & E	751
London & W	752
London & S	753
London & N	754
London & SE	755
London & SW	756
London & NE	757
London & NW	758
London & E	759
London & W	760
London & S	761
London & N	762
London & SE	763
London & SW	764
London & NE	765
London & NW	766
London & E	767
London & W	768
London & S	769
London & N	770

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London & SE	712
London & SW	713
London & NE	714
London & NW	715
London & E	716
London & W	717
London & S	718
London & N	719
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London & E	743
London & W	744
London & S	745
London & N	746
London & SE	747
London & SW	748
London & NE	749
London & NW	750
London & E	751
London & W	752
London & S	753
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London & SE	755
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London & NE	757
London & NW	758
London & E	759
London & W	760
London & S	761
London & N	762
London & SE	763
London & SW	764
London & NE	765
London & NW	766
London & E	767
London & W	768
London & S	769
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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Guernsey, Channel Islands, 14C (57F). Lowest day temp: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 5C (41F). Highest rainfall: Falmouth, Cornwall, 0.9mm. Highest sunshine: Jersey, Channel Islands, 0.9 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday's temp: max 6am to 6pm, 9C (48F); min 6pm to 6am, -1C (30F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

GLASGOW

Yesterday's temp: max 6am to 6pm, 8C (46F); min 6pm to 6am, -2C (28F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.06 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

LONDON

Yesterday's temp: max 6am to 6pm, 13C (55F); min 6pm to 6am, 5C (41F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.38 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 1011.8 mbars, rising. 1,000 mbars = 29.92 in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

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MANCHESTER

Yesterday's temp: max 6am to 6pm, 9C (48F); min 6pm to 6am, -1C (30F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

GLASGOW

Yesterday's temp: max 6am to 6pm, 8C (46F); min 6pm to 6am, -2C (28F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.06 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

For small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay's Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. NB Rates are subject to change.

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	Sun rises	Sun sets	Blytham	6:43	10:46	1	1
	7:45 AM	3:55 PM	Blackpool	6:43	10:45	1	1
			Bristol	6:46	10:48	0	0
			Cardiff	7:45	0	1	1
	Moon rises	Moon sets	Edinburgh	4:39	0	1	1
	11:30 AM	10:25 PM	Glasgow	5:41	0	1	1
First Quarter December 2							

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5:04	6:6	1:59	6:5	Liverpool	2:27	4:1	2:45	6:3
London NW	4:58	6:4	1:54	6:6	Lewisham	2:24	2:4	1:33	2:1
Liverpool	10:35	11:1	10:54	10:7	Mersey	3:05	4:4	2:45	4:2
Sefton	2:33	2:1	2:22	3:4	Millard Haven	8:37	6:1	10:05	5:6
Sefton	10:20	10:4	10:48	10:4	Newquay	8:43	6:1	8:58	6:7
Swansea	8:33	8:0	9:17	4:8	Oban	9:10	3:8	9:15	3:2
Dorchester	2:12	4:1	2:40	5:7	Paisley	6:00	5:1	8:25	4:8
Edinburgh	8:28	4:8	8:47	4:4	Portland	4:36	1:8	10:10	1:1
Edinburgh	4:16	4:1	8:26	4:1	Portsmouth	2:26	4:4	2:39	4:2
Edinburgh	2:56	3:6	3:28	3:6	Shoreham	2:19	5:8	2:32	4:3
Edinburgh	1:44	4:7	1:54	0					

Yoko Watanabe:
a sensational
new Butterfly

What culture
should be
taught in schools?

Anatole Kaletsky
on the future
of the BBC

THE TIMES 2

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30 1992

First amateur crew round Cape Horn in triumph

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL
AT CAPE HORN

JOHN Chittenden and his crew of 13 on Nuclear Electric last night led the British Steel Challenge race around the turbulent waters off Cape Horn.

At about 17.00 GMT, Nuclear Electric became the first amateur crewed yacht to round the Horn. Chittenden, a 52-year-old master mariner from London, and his team barely had time to celebrate their achievement, although Liz MacDonald reported from the boat: "As well as being the adventure of a lifetime, it really is the ultimate personal challenge—the opportunity to push myself to the limit."

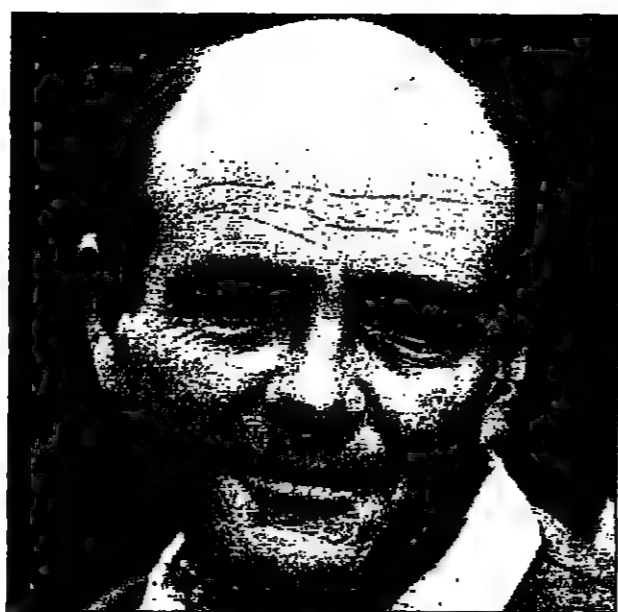
Cape Horn lived up to its reputation as preparation for the ten yachts heading from Rio de Janeiro to Tasmania on the second stage of their 28,000-mile race around the world. It was flat calm one moment; raining the next, the water driven horizontal by 30-knot blasts as one depression after another swept in from

the Southern Ocean.

This is where the dark blue waters of the Pacific meet the grey-green of the Atlantic where the Southern Ocean rollers, unhindered for more than 14,000 miles, pour into Drake's Channel, a funnel just 480 miles wide between Antarctica and the tip of South America. The result is almost always impressive, with breaking crests that range between six and sixty feet.

For the previous 24 hours, Chittenden and his crew had been fighting an almost losing battle to weather the Cape. On Friday, they were talking of rounding at dusk on Saturday. At noon GMT yesterday, they were still 20 miles away, battling to make more than three knots into the teeth of a 30-knot sou'wester.

"Wherever we go, the wind seems to head us," Chittenden said after a frustrating 48 hours. "We spent several hours almost becalmed just north of the Le Maire Straits and we have met headwinds ever since." I have been aboard the



Chittenden, left, leads his crew to glory, while Phillips, right, has to head for repairs in Port Stanley



Chilean Navy supply ship Castor, anchored in the sheltered lee of black rocks that tower into the clouds; from here, the tales from seamen

serving before the mast a century past suddenly take on a much starker realism. The worst year was 1905, when more than 400 square-

rigged ships made, or tried to make, voyages round Cape Horn. At least six ships disappeared. Many more were driven aground on the tooth-like

rocks, or suffered so much damage from the onslaught of the seas they were deemed total losses. At least 40 were forced to

turn and run in distress for the Falklands, Montevideo or Rio de Janeiro. A dozen more gave up the battle and ran right round the world before the Roaring Forties to reach their destinations from the other side of the globe.

The ten identical 67ft British Steel yachts have been designed specifically for this adventure. They sail to windward much more purposefully than any square-rigger. Yet, when Nuclear Electric can barely make three knots towards her goal, the ferocity of these seas is better understood.

Chay Blyth, whose solo circumnavigation 21 years ago inspired the British Steel race, sent a message of congratulation to Nuclear Electric. "I will remember being very worried and scared about rounding Cape Horn. I am sure they will feel, as I did, that although this is really the starting gate of the worst to come, the barrier is now lifted and the way forward around the rest of the world is open."

Commercial Union, was about 150 miles behind

Nuclear Electric at 15.00 GMT yesterday, while Rhone-Poulenc and Interspray reported problems. Peter Phillips and his crew on Rhone-Poulenc were knocked down by a 40-knot gust and were heading for Port Stanley, to make repairs. On Interspray, the watch leader, John Davis, was resting after the spinnaker pole had crashed on his head.

Paul Jeffes, the skipper of Interspray, said: "Initially, we were concerned that he might have suffered a detached retina as well as concussion. But he is left only with a headache."

POSITIONS at 15.00 GMT yesterday, with miles to Hobart, Tasmania: 1. Nuclear Electric (J Chittenden, 5381); 2. Commercial Union (P Mervin, 5334); 3. Coopers & Lybrand (V Chay, 5585); 4. National Laser (P Goss, 5288); 5. British Steel II (P Tully, 5731); 6. Heathcote (A Donover), 5745; 7. Pride of Teesside (J MacCabe), 5747; 8. Rhone-Poulenc (P Phillips), 5525; 9. Group 4 (M Gidding), 5545; 10. Interspray (P Jeffes), 5668.

Barry Pickthall's report was filed from an STC satellite telephone. Race details from British Telecom.

Leading article, page 17

Leeds United's Premier League aspirations exposed by another away defeat

Townsend offers some late relief

Chelsea 1
Leeds United 0BY STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

A FIXTURE that started badly and spiralled into decline was plucked out of obscurity in the closing minutes yesterday by Andy Townsend. With his third Premier League goal of the season, Chelsea's captain lifted his club into fifth place, eight points behind the leaders, Norwich City.

His strike, with his less cultured right foot, maintained a productive sequence which has propelled Chelsea into an improbable position. With seven wins in eight games, they have clambered on to the edge of contention and their elevation serves as an adverse comment on the inadequacy of their rivals.

Leeds United are a case in point. Having lost sight of the European Cup, they indicated with their victory over Arsenal last weekend that they might be focusing on an attempt to retain the title. Their away form, though, continues to condemn them to no more than distant also-rans.

"We seem to take one step forward and two steps back," Howard Wilkinson, their manager, said. "I thought we deserved a point. The winner was their first shot in the second half and they only had two in the first."

Leeds, by nature the more artistic unit, were never allowed to doodle, let alone

paint a picture. If all the highlights had been condensed into one package, they would have filled barely a minute. The level of purposeful creation could scarcely have been lower.

Teams initially flex their muscles as a customary demonstration of their physical power and mental commitment, but at Stamford Bridge the process was taken to such extremes that it was still being applied at the end. Although no malice was apparent and no cautions were issued, the occasion wore a sowl and a snarl. Since anyone in possession could expect to be involved in a bone-shuddering collision the ball invariably had to be released too swiftly for any constructive moves to be formed.

That was to Chelsea's advantage. They smothered the greater individual talent of their opponents and displayed their own more limited ability with a seemingly endless series of lofted through-balls.

The prospect of a goalless draw, for which both managers had settled, was dismissed unexpectedly when Hall crossed towards Wise. Although he was being manhandled by Newsome, he managed to pull the ball down for Townsend who struck it with thunderous power past Lukic.

CHelsea: K Hinchcock, G Hall, F Sinclair, A Townsend, D Lee, M Donaghy, G Stuart, R Flock, M Welford, E Newton, G Wise.
LEeds UNITED: J Lukic, J Newsome, A Dorrin, D Rosewell, C Fairclough, C Whyte, G Strachan, R Walters, L Chapman, G Scudamore, M Bodenham.



High step: Chapman, left, beats Lee, the Chelsea defender, during Leeds' defeat at Stamford Bridge yesterday

Norwich pass the test of potential champions

BY DAVID MILLER

The idea that Mike Walker — who? — might succeed Graham Taylor as England manager would be thought far-fetched. The same would have been said of Alf Ramsey, before Ipswich Town stole the Football League title in 1962. It would be a rash man who bet heavily against Norwich now cumulating their neighbours 30 years on.

Norwich are as tactically innovative as were Ramsey's team, and even better passers of the ball, a skill that Ramsey always stressed was the essence of the game. Early this season, Walker cautiously suggested that Norwich might no longer be as constructive as in recent years, given the need to move the ball forward more quickly. He was unnecessarily modest. Norwich are still the best passers, other than Liverpool.

Their victory over Aston Villa, themselves an outstanding team, produced on Saturday the finest English

league match I can recall in some years, played at breathtaking pace in broad sweeps across Villa Park's perfect surface. And the key to Norwich's success was the use of a sweeper. Culverhouse, playing intelligently behind two markers, Butterworth and Polston, enabled Norwich to have an "extra" player, Fox, who fitted like a Catherine wheel between middle four and front two, Robins and Beckford.

It is the formation that I have long been convinced England should employ, and it makes Norwich not only a deserved front runners, but also one of the most entertaining of teams, never mind that they lack a so-called superstar, just as it was, indeed, with Ramsey.

The sweeper system proved an answer to Villa's formidable threat of Atkinson and Saunders, perhaps the most dangerous there is

DAVID
MILLER
Commentary

in the league. But only just. Culverhouse steadied Norwich in the opening quarter of an hour, when Villa were flowing with confidence until suddenly a goal behind. For the next half-hour Norwich overpowered their opponents, their supreme accuracy and movement off the ball from midfield forcing Elhago, deputising for the injured Teale, into repeated error.

With Norwich two-up through an error by Spink, uncharacteristically dropping the ball under pressure, Villa were groggy; yet they responded brilliantly with goals from midfield a minute either side of half-time. Nor-

wich showed their character by immediately retaking the lead, and in the final 20 minutes it was once again Culverhouse's reading of the game, in a defence which barely is the second worst in the Premier League, which kept Villa out; though in the final minutes Gunn had to tip away Culverhouse's desperate misdirected header.

It should be mentioned, coincidentally, that one-third of the players on the field were Anglo-African, representative of the revolution taking place in the English game on and off the field. Before the start I saw, busy going to the ground with that expectation that runs in the

blood, a black man and his ten-year-old son dressed from head to toe in claret and blue.

You will not see a better-constructed move than that which brought Norwich's opening goal, in the seventeenth minute. Such, an underestimated midfielder player, drew two men before switching the ball to Fox. In turn, the ball was fed quickly to Robins and then Phillips, flying free on the left, and he cut in to beat Spink crisply.

Now Norwich ran riot. Spink being forced into action every few minutes. On the half-hour he fumbled a corner from Phillips from the left and Beckford was on hand to accept the gift. It would have been no exaggeration had Norwich been four-up.

Then Houghton, so strangely discarded by Liverpool, yet Villa back in the game on the stroke of half-time with a low, long shot

that had Gunn unsighted, and barely had a fight on their hands. They launched themselves at recovery with a vengeance, yet Norwich's supposedly vulnerable defence held on commendably and they left for home looking as good as at any time in their history. How Villa must regret that Richardson's fierce drive ten minutes from time was not a foot or two further to the left, Gunn being able to preserve a memorable victory.

ASTON VILLA: N Spink, E Bennett, S Staunton, H Elhago (sub: C Pegler), P McGrath, R Richardson, R Houghton, G Parker, D Saunders, D Atkinson, B Small.
NORWICH CITY: B Gunn, I Culverhouse, M Bowen, J Butterworth, J Polston, D Such, J Christie, D Beckford (sub: C Sutton), M Robins, R Fox, D Phillips.
Referee: A Bulch.

Scudamore starved of outside rides

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

PETER Scudamore, the eight-times champion National Hunt jockey, spoke yesterday of the frustration of not being offered horses to ride.

Despite having the best winning strike rate of any jump jockey — 31 per cent — he has been given only a handful of outside rides this season and the dearth of opportunities looks like costing him the jockeys' title, which he has won for the past seven years.

Scudamore is retained by Martin Pipe, the champion trainer, but, unlike his main weighing room rivals who are also retained by top yards, he is picking up very few horses to ride from other stables.

Pipe has provided the champion jockey with 108 of his 148 mounts this season. Most of the other 40 have come from Nigel Twiston-Davies.

By contrast, only 57 of

Richard Dunwoody's 246 rides have come from David Nicholson. Although Dunwoody is lucky enough to have a second retainer with Nicky Henderson, he has also gained many outside mounts which have helped him to land 61 winners.

The apparent reluctance of trainers to book Scudamore resulted in him having a riderless day last Friday. Several racing people assumed he was having a day off.

"I am just not getting many outside rides. I would certainly like to get a few more and I wish the telephone would ring more often," Scudamore said yesterday. "I have been eight times champion jockey and I think it is a case of trainers thinking I am not going to bother that much, but I am as hungry as ever."

Hennessy surprise, page 28

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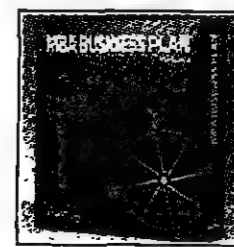
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Smash-and-grab tactic pays off for happy Spurs

Manchester City.....0
Tottenham Hotspur.....1

By PETER BALL

THE days when the big North-West clubs looked forward to the arrival of Tottenham Hotspur with undiscovered glee may be coming rapidly to an end. On Saturday the London side strode unfurled through the North-West club's territory for the third time in a month, bringing an abrupt halt to Manchester City's run of four successive league wins.

The victory extended Tottenham's own undefeated run to eight matches. So far that is not being reflected in their League position, but the most significant statistic was that it was their fifth consecutive game without conceding a goal.

At that rate the days when the late Bill Shankly used to greet them as "The Drury Lane Boys" will be laid to rest along with the glorious football of Blackpool and White, or Huddersfield and Arsenal.

With the familiar, cockney crest, they may still look like Tottenham, but this new pragmatic bunch play more like Arsenal, defending in depth and counter-attacking quickly.

City were the victims for a second time. Tottenham repeating their 1-0 win in the Coca-Cola cup. This time their victory had its moments of fortune, most notably the goal, the unlucky Phelan inadvertently turning Watson's pull-back into his own net as he came back to cut off.

Watson, 18, had made his luck with his long run to meet Nayim's splendid cross, but he revealed his innocence by claiming the goal for a notable double, having scored against Brentford after coming on as substitute in his only previous first-team game. "I don't really score many goals, and to be honest I wasn't going for goal," he said.

That was little consolation for Phelan. "They've got away with a smash-and-grab job, just like in the cup match," he complained.

Just as at Blackburn two weeks earlier, it was too much for the home side. This time, with Durkin and Allen both missing, Spurs' counters were less incisive, but City rarely threatened to take advantage.

Frenchman? Can Ferguson keep him productive and pacified over a three-and-a-half year contract?

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The fall guys: Wilkins, left, and Cowans stand by as Shearer and Peacock take lower profiles during Saturday's match at Ewood Park

Shearer rises briefly from the gloom

Blackburn Rovers.....1
Queens Park Rangers.....0

By IAN ROWE

THERE are few more unpalatable sights in football than players of ability labouring under the misapprehension that hard work is in an acceptable substitute for skill. Beforehand, few would have disagreed that this was likely to be a game for the more discerning supporter, surely, two of the Premier League's more accomplished sides, would not disappoint.

Blackburn Rovers: R. Merson, C. Price, A. Wright, T. Sherwood, C. Hendry, C. B. Bates, S. Bruce, L. Sharpe, G. Pallister, R. Robson, P. Wright, M. McClair, H. Hughes. Referee: H. King.

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Sadly, scripts are only rarely adhered to on this side of the looking-glass and had Blackburn not underlined the marginal supremacy with the game's solitary goal, the afternoon would have been totally worthless instead of merely tedious.

This was a fixture which should have lent itself to both observation and comparison: in Blackburn's Shearer, we had an England forward and in Rangers' Ferdinand, a possible partner or successor.

Sadly, neither was able to embellish his reputation. Brushes with uncompromising defenders saw that.

After just 35 seconds Hendry, a profligate if often over-zealous centre back, chose to ruffie Ferdinand's plumage with a thunderous challenge. The tackle left Ferdinand either carrying an injury or aware of his sense of self-preservation, for thereafter, to use the parlance of the terraces, he did not want to know.

Shearer fared slightly better, recovering from a similarly bone-jarring collision with Peacock to score the decisive goal, his first in six league games, with a neat, glancing header in the seventh minute.

However, his withdrawal because of injury shortly after the interval further impoverished an already shoddy game and ended any lingering prospect of an increase in the level of entertainment.

Even more baffling than the inability of players like Wilkins, Cowans and Sinton to pass a ball in a straight line was the maverick performance of the referee, Keith Hackett, who seemed to be intent on discovering precisely what would transpire were he to redefine the laws of the game and permit unsavoury lunge and challenges.

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Hoddle's defence negates all the great entertaining

Peterborough United 3
Swindon Town 3

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE moist and murky mist which crept in from the Fens to envelop Peterborough yesterday failed to obscure some first-class first division entertainment at London Road.

Crowds expect to be pleased when Swindon are in town and Glen Hoddle, Mike Hazard and company did not disappoint with some characteristically defence-splitting passes. Yet Swindon's slick passes can become stuck on muddy winter pitches.

It was defender error rather than underfoot conditions which nearly brought Hoddle's team completely unstuck yesterday. Despite fielding five at the back, with the player-manager as sweeper, the Swindon rearguard proved to have a soft centre when,

following good work from Cooper and Philliskirk, Adcock was allowed to advance and chip the ball over Hammond, the Swindon goalkeeper, after three minutes. Peterborough should have been two up a minute later when Sterling delivered a superb cross which Adcock inexcusably headed askew.

It was the Peterborough backline's turn to go AWOL in the 22nd minute when Taylor scored with a free header from Summerbee's corner on the right.

Fifteen minutes later, Taylor scored again, but at the other end, Welsh's cross caused horrible confusion between Hammond and the central defender, and with the goalkeeper caught in no man's land Taylor dived in to his right.

Hazard then had a goal dubiously disallowed for offside but Swindon drew level after 58 minutes, Maskell

registering his seventeenth goal of the season from Kerslake's centre.

It was a goal well created by Kerslake — one of the best overlapping right backs in the division — and executed in typically ruthless fashion by Maskell, who has to be a contender for bargain of the season. Maskell's career looked to have ground to a standstill at Reading, but Hoddle, obviously spotted something others failed to notice when he signed him for £240,000 last summer.

Taylor, Hoddle's first signing at Swindon, for £200,000 from Exeter 18 months ago, was soon once again the centre of attention. He scored his third goal of the game by heading the ball home after Hoddle chipped a free kick to the far post in the 77th minute.

Apparently in awe of Hoddle, the Peterborough players had frequently stood off the former England international, allowing him the space to strut his stuff to best advantage.

Considering that Peterborough, promoted via the play-offs last season, were in the fourth division just two years ago, such excessive respect is understandable. But they need not be so differential. Chris Turner, the Peterborough manager, has clearly done an excellent job and his team should continue to more than hold their own in mid-table.

They just about deserved the point they gained in the 84th minute when the hapless Hammond failed to control Hoddle's long back-pass and miskicked his clearance straight to Adcock. The forward chipped his fifteenth goal of the season, and eighth in five games, into an empty net.

It left Swindon fourth, but winter's pitches, not to mention that kamikaze defence, could deny Hoddle's great entertainers a Premier League place.

PETERBOROUGH UNITED: 1. Bennett, 2. Bracken, 3. Robinson, 4. Hoddle, 5. Taylor, 6. Hughes, 7. Preece, 8. Cooper, 9. Adcock, 10. Philliskirk (sub: D. Lofel), 11. Bode.

SWINDON TOWN: 1. Hammond, 2. Kerslake, 3. Horrocks, 4. Hoddle, 5. Caddenham, 6. Taylor, 7. Hazard, 8. Summerbee, 9. Maskell, 10. Ling, 11. Macari.

Referee: D. G. Primm.

Gloom lifts a little over Luton Town

Luton Town 2
Watford 0

By DENNIS SIGNY

THE gloom at Kenilworth Road, with Luton Town at the bottom of the first division and Darren Salton, 20, their Scotland Under-21 international defender, in a critical condition in hospital after a road accident last Thursday, was appreciably lifted yesterday by a first home victory of the season. Two good goals in the space of three minutes ensured a win that was no more than Luton deserved.

After Luton had dominated the first half on a heavy pitch, Benjamin, embarking on a new spell with Luton, his tenth league club, steered a header wide of Suckling after 72 minutes to open the scoring. Benjamin, whose transfer fee will be decided by a tribunal, had already scored seven goals for Southend United this season.

Oakes added a second goal

three minutes later when he collected a pass from Gray in his own half and ran through to beat Suckling with a well-placed shot from 20 yards.

David Plead, the Luton manager, admitted afterwards his players had been in no fit state to play football on Friday after hearing news of Salton's condition. A postponement was discussed and, if five or six players had continued to express doubts about playing, Luton would have tried to cancel the game out of respect for Salton.

However, Plead said that Salton's father, John, had sent a letter, which he read to the players before the game, saying: "You have got to lead your lives."

Plead added: "Our thoughts were with Darren and will be for some time. We needed a win and it came right for us."

LUTON TOWN: 1. Chamberlain, 2. Dwyer, 3. James, 4. Salton, 5. Hughes, 6. Plead, 7. Oakes, 8. M. Williams, 9. Benjamin, 10. Jones, 11. Gray.

Referee: D. G. Primm.

Newcastle sail over the horizon

SIR John Hall, the Newcastle United chairman, recently had a round of meetings with Premier League counterparts who might be willing to join him in establishing a European midweek league next season (Louise Taylor writes).

Although such a scenario is almost certainly unworkable and highly ambitious for a team still in the first division, it does look as if United's week-ends will be occupied by Premier League commitments from August.

On Saturday, Kevin Keegan's side went 12 points clear at the top of the first division thanks to a 4-1 win at home to Cambridge United. David Kelly scoring a hat-trick. Despite that defeat Gary Johnson is expected to be promoted from caretaker manager to the real thing by Cambridge this week.

Two goals from John

Aldridge gave Tranmere Rovers a 2-1 win at Derby County, keeping Merseyside's third team on course for a first season football top flight. Derby, however, have won only two of their eight league games at the Baseball Ground this season and the £10 million invested in players by Lionel Pickering, the club's owner, is not paying instant dividends.

Perhaps as a contingency plan, Pickering appealed to supporters to underwrite a scheme called Springboard. He asked them to pay £8.66 monthly by direct debit to help finance the club's youth policy. But if Pickering went to a restaurant for dinner would he expect to pay a supplement for refurbishing the kitchen on top of his bill?

Malcolm Allison celebrated the news that he is in charge of Bristol Rovers for at least the

next three months with a 1-0 win at Leicestershire City. Brian Little, the Leicester manager, has been widely tipped to succeed the insecure Malcolm Crosby at Sunderland, who won 1-0 at struggling Southend United — but Steve Coppell of Crystal Palace, yesterday emerged as another name to concern Crosby.

Portsmouth, who beat Millwall 1-0 thanks to a goal from Alan McLoughlin at Fratton Park, hope to make Steve Agnew's loan transfer from Blackburn Rovers permanent this week.

The former Barnsley mid-fielder failed to make an impact at Ewood Park and Jim Smith, the Portsmouth manager, hopes to pay appreciably less than the £750,000 Blackburn invested in Agnew, who was renowned as one of the best passers of the ball in the old second division.



Face value: Gascoigne beats Carnevale, of AS Roma, in yesterday's 1-1 draw with Lazio, in which Gascoigne scored

Macari intends to keep fire stoked

Stoke City 2
Swansea City 1

By KATH PIRK

IF CONSISTENCY is the key to escaping the second division, they might as well hand Lou Macari the championship trophy now.

Victory over Swansea City at the Victoria Ground on Saturday stretched Stoke City's lead to four points and their unbeaten league run to 14 games, with nine victories and five draws since losing to Bradford City on September 2. It is an admirable record which their promotion rivals have been unable to match.

Bradford, West Bromwich Albion, Leyton Orient and Swansea themselves have all flirted with the leadership, but unlike Macari's team has

been unable to maintain its momentum. The Stoke manager, however, knows better than most not to take anything for granted.

Last season, Stoke led the division for two months and seemed promotion certainties until failure to win any of their last three games condemned them to the play-offs and defeat by Stockport County. This time round, Macari aims to leave nothing to chance.

Stoke set about Swansea like men possessed, but 30 minutes of unrelenting pressure brought no reward. Free-stone saved superbly from Stein and Russell, Cullen cleared Overson's header off the line, and Russell thundered a shot against the crossbar as Swansea survived a virtual siege.

When Shaw finally made

the breakthrough two minutes into the second half, fooling his marker with a dip of a shoulder and swivelling to curl a delightful left-foot shot in off the far post, the floodgates looked likely to open. Instead, Swansea's first shot on target, a 30-yard skimmer from Cullen in the 58th minute, gave them unexpected parity and a massive boost in confidence.

Stoke's rhythm disrupted and their supporters increasingly agitated, in the end had to thank an eagle-eyed linesman for victory. He spotted Agboola tugging at Shaw's shirt nine minutes from time, and Stein, the division's leading scorer, confidently converted the penalty. The dismissal of Jenkins for a second bookable offence only rubbed salt into Swansea's wounds.

Orient, with a hat-trick from Howard, continue to prosper at Brisbane Road. They regained second place with a 5-1 victory over Mansfield, while the performance of the day was Rotherham United's 3-0 victory over Bradford City at Valley Parade, which lifts them to third.

Of the top seven sides in the third division only the leaders, York City, managed a victory, their 3-1 defeat of Crewe Alexandra giving them a five-point cushion over Barnet, who lost at Darlington. Gillingham returned from Lincoln City with an unexpected point to move above Northampton at the bottom.

STOKE CITY: 1. Shaw, 2. Stein, 3. Cullen, 4. Overson, 5. Russell, 6. Macari, 7. Preece, 8. D. Lyle, 9. Jenkins, 10. Agboola, 11. Harris, 12. Brown, 13. Cullen, 14. Connor (sub: J. Ford), 15. West (sub: A. McFarlane), 16. Conforti, 17. Legg, 18. Referee: T. Lunt.

Romanians take spoils

ROMANIA stepped up their challenge to Wales in World Cup qualifying group four yesterday when they beat Cyprus 4-1 in Larnaca. The Romanians, who dropped a point at home to Czechoslovakia a fortnight ago, cruised to a straightforward victory with goals from George Popescu, Florin Raducioiu, George Hagi and Ovidiu Hanganu.

The win has strengthened their position in second place in the group, three points behind the impressive leaders, Belgium, who have won all their five games, but three ahead of Wales. Romania beat Wales 5-1 in Bucharest in May.

Charalambos Pittas, with a penalty, scored for Cyprus, who remain fifth in the six-team group, a point behind the Czechs and ahead of the last-placed Faeroe Islands.

Shearer's goals boost Aberdeen

ABERDEEN emphasised their credentials as Rangers' principal challengers when they demolished Heart of Midlothian at Pittodrie. Where Duncan Shearer scored a hat-trick for the third time this season (Roddy Forsyth writes).

The teams began the afternoon level on points in second place behind Rangers, and early in the second half they were still level, at 2-2, Irvine and Shearer having scored for Aberdeen and Baird and Hogg for Hearts.

However, when Booth came on for Bett, the pattern of the game changed decisively. Shearer scored another two goals and Mason and Booth completed a rout which was unavoidable once Hearts' McKinlay had been sent off for his second yellow card offence.

Hearts began the game with

the premier division's most efficient defence, one which had conceded a mere dozen goals in 18 games, but they were overwhelmed by an Aberdeen side which has now scored 13 times in two matches, six of them from Shearer.



Shearer: third hat-trick

Aberdeen now face a fortnight which will test their resources, with matches against Celtic — who won 2-1 at Hibernian on Saturday — St Johnstone, Dundee United and Rangers.

Rangers were obliged to play without Gough and McCole against Partick Thistle at Ibrox, where they won 3-0, the goals coming in the second half.

McCowan, McCole's understudy, scored his first league goal for the club to complete a memorable week which also saw him score with his first touch when brought on as a substitute against Marseille in the European champions' league.

Steven and McPherson also scored in a game which saw Thistle reduced to ten men when McWalter was sent off for a foul on McPherson, his second bookable of the game.

Way sees Slough home to safety

Slough 3
Havant 3

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

FROM an exciting game of changing fortunes, Slough emerged victors over Havant on penalty strokes to reach the fifth round of the Royal Bank of Scotland Cup yesterday.

Four minutes before the end Slough seemed on the way to victory with a 3-1 lead, but a tactical play failed. Barber was brought on as a substitute to bolster the defence, which was torn apart by Havant, who levelled the score.

Havant themselves made an excellent start by snatching the lead within 40 seconds. However, Slough tightened their defence and restored their fortunes with strong running by Laxon and Organ.

Thrills abounded after Williams had scored the first goal for Havant from a lightning raid initiated by Cooper. Havant then continued to torment and Williams was twice prevented from scoring by Lea-Elmes in goal. Gaining momentum, Slough equalised in the 32nd minute with Laxon running in to score from Banton's pass.

Havant regained the initiative in the second half, but failed to capitalise. Giles missed from a short corner and Williams was deprived by Way who saved on the line.

In a brief spell of Slough's ascendancy Maskery missed twice and had a shot saved by Rowlands. A short corner to Slough in the 54th minute led to a penalty stroke, which Nicklin converted.

Slough's position was consolidated in the 59th minute when Banton scored after Organ had made the running. Havant retaliated with Garcia converting a short corner and David Roberts gaining an equaliser almost on time.

In the penalty-stroke shootout Lea-Elmes saved from Faulkner and Cooper, but the drama was by no means over. Nicklin missed the target for Slough and it was left to Way to make the final conversion, enabling Slough to win 4-3.

STOKE CITY: 1. Shaw, 2. Stein, 3. Cullen, 4. Overson, 5. Russell, 6. Macari, 7. Preece, 8. D. Lyle, 9. Jenkins, 10. Agboola, 11. Harris, 12. Brown, 13. Cullen, 14. Connor (sub: J. Ford), 15. West (sub: A. McFarlane), 16. Conforti, 17. Legg, 18. Referee: T. Lunt.

Teddington lifted by McGuire

PHILLIP McGuire steered Teddington into the Royal Bank of Scotland Cup fifth round yesterday with two goals, the second from a penalty stroke for a 2-1 win over Trojans who had taken an early lead through Scott Jennison (Sydney Friskin writes).

Stourport also had to fight back for a 3-1 victory over Anchorians. Sherwin (two) and Knott scored in answer to the goal by Barry for Anchorians. As expected, East Grinstead and Hounslow, the holders, secured easy victories but Indian Gymkhana prevailed over Barford Tigers on penalty strokes after the scores were tied at 1-1.

On Saturday, the same teams drew 1-1 in the second division of the Pizza Express National League. Dhanraj Pillay scored for Indian Gymkhana in the twelfth minute with a brilliant run which began on the halfway line. Barford Tigers equalised in the 54th minute through Vidhu Mayor.

The first division was opened up by Firebrands' 1-0 defeat of Stourport.

Gascoigne scores his first goal

Rome: The lure of a Roman derby was one of the factors that persuaded Paul Gascoigne to sign for Lazio and he was not to be disappointed in his first taste of a meeting with city rivals, AS Roma.

After the Roma captain, Giuseppe Giannini, had given his team the lead after 48 minutes, Lazio staged a defiant recovery that was crowned when, in the 86th minute, Gascoigne controlled the ball inside the penalty area and shot past the Roma goalkeeper, Giuseppe Zinetti, to make it 1-1. It was his first goal in the Italian first division.

AC Milan's stranglehold on the Italian championship they won last season strengthened even further yesterday. Yet another victory, by a single goal away to the most likely challengers, Juventus, extended their lead at the top of the league to three points and their unbeaten league run to 45 matches.

Juventus ended cursing their luck. After conceding a second goal to Marco Simone, they were awarded an 88th-minute penalty, but Gianluca Vialli saw his shot saved by Sebastiano Rossi, the goalkeeper. (AP)

THE TIMES TABLE OF THE FA PREMIER LEAGUE

Wtdy chge	P	Pts	Goal diff	W (H+A)	D (H+A)	L (H+A)	For (H+A)	Agst (H+A)	Leading scorers	Home attendances	Recent form	Next match
1 (0) Norwich	17	36	+2	11 (8-5)	3 (2-1)	3 (3-5)	32 (13-19)	30 (8-24)	Robins 10, Phillips 6	- 11 14,327 +3.4	wldwww	Wimbledon (h Sat)
2 (+1) Blackburn	17	31	+14	8 (8-2)	7 (1-6)	2 (2-0)	26 (18-8)	12 (7-5)	Shearer 13, Ripley 3	2 17 17,755 +34.0	ddlddw	Middlesbro (a Sat)
3 (-1) Arsenal	17	29	+8	9 (8-3)	2 (0-2)	6 (3-3)	22 (14-8)	17 (8-9)	Wright 10, Merson 3	- 22 25,736 -19.3	wwwwl	Soton (a Sat)
4 (0) A Villa	17	28	+8	7 (4-3)	7 (3-4)	3 (2-1)	26 (15-11)	18 (10-8)	Adkins 9, Saunders 7	- 9 26,621 +7.3	ulwvwl	Sheff Wed (a Sat)
5 (+2) Chelsea	17	28	+5	8 (4-4)	4 (3-1)	5 (2-3)	24 (11-13)	19 (8-11)	Harford 8, Stuart 4	- 22 19,639 +5.1	wlwlw	Tottenham (a Sat)
6 (+2) Man Utd	17	27	+6	7 (3-4)	6 (3-3)	4 (2-2)	18 (8-8)	12 (7-5)	Hughes 7	- 15 32,258 -28.3	cdlhw	Man City (h Sat)
7 (-2) QPR	17	26	+5	7 (4-3)	5 (3-2)	5 (1-4)	22 (15-7)	17 (8-8)	Ferdinand 5	- 17 15,968 +17.5	wlwl	Oldham (h Sat)
8 (-2) Man City	17	25	+7	7 (3-4)	4 (3-1)	6 (3-3)	24 (14-10)	17 (10-7)	White 9, Sheron 5	1 12 24,688 -10.9	dwwwl	Man Utd (a Sat)
9 (+4) Liverpool	17	25	+6	7 (5-1)	4 (1-3)	6 (2-4)	30 (21-9)	24 (10-14)	Rosenthal/McManisman 5	- 16 33,925 -2.5	wlwwww	Everton (a Mon)
10 (0) Ipswich	17	25	+3	5 (3-2)	10 (8-4)	2 (0-2)	22 (13-9)	19 (9-10)	Doddell/Wark 5	1 14 17,673 +23.8	ldwldw	Coventry (a Sat)
11 (-2) Coventry	17	24	-1	6 (2-4)	6 (2-4)	5 (4-1)	20 (9-11)	22 (12-10)	Williams/Mclou 4	- 9 14,324 +3.2	cdlwd	Ipswich (h Sat)
12 (+3) Tottenham	17	22	-5	5 (3-2)	7 (4-3)	5 (1-4)	17 (11-6)	22 (8-14)	Sheringham 5, Durie 3	1 16 27,782 +0.1	ldwldw	Chelsea (h Sat)
14 (-1) Leeds	17	21	0	5 (5-0)	6 (3-3)	6 (3-3)	28 (20-8)	26 (7-21)	Chapman 9, Cantona 6	- 15 28,409 -3.6	wldwl	Notm For (h Sat)
14 (-3) Middlesbro	17	21	0	5 (4-1)	6 (3-3)	6 (1-5)	27 (16-11)	27 (8-19)	Williamson 8, Slaven 4	- 14 17,683 +20.3	cdldl	Blackburn (h Sat)
15 (-1) Sheff Wed	17	20	-1	4 (3-1)	8 (3-5)	5 (2-3)	19 (11-8)	20 (10-10)	Hirst 6, Bright 4	- 16 26,337 -10.9	wddddd	A Villa (h Sat)
16 (+1) Southampton	17	19	-4	4 (2-2)	7 (4-3)	6 (2-4)	15 (8-7)	19 (9-11)	La Tisser 5, Dowle 3	1 24 14,383 +2.2	dlwldw	Arsenal (h Sat)
17 (+2) Oldham	17	18	-3	4 (4-0)	6 (3-3)	7 (2-5)	27 (20-7)	30 (14-16)	Sharp 6	- 14 12,093 -19.8	ldlwl	QPR (a Sat)
18 (-2) Sheff Utd	17	18	-6	4 (3-1)	6 (5-1)	7 (1-6)	17 (10-7)	23 (8-15)	Deane 5, Littlejohn 4	2 26 20,733 -6.2	ldwld	C Palace (a Sat)
19 (-1) Everton	17	16	-8	4 (1-3)	4 (3-1)	9 (4-5)	13 (4-9)	21 (10-11)	Beardsley 3	- 8 21,436 -7.4	dlwll	Liverpool (h Mon)
20 (0) Wimbledon	17	15	-7	3 (1-2)	6 (3-3)	8 (5-3)	19 (9-10)	26 (14-12)	Holdsworth/Earle 3	1 18 6,715 -2.8	dlwld	Norwich (h Sat)
21 (0) C Palace	17	12	-12	1 (0-1)	9 (5-4)	7 (3-4)	20 (10-10)	32 (13-19)	Armstrong 6	2 16 14,725 -16.4	cdldl	Sheff Utd (h Sat)
22 (0) Notm For	17	11	-14	2 (2-0)	5 (1-4)	10 (6-4)	13 (5-8)	27 (10-17)	Barnister 5, Clough 3	- 9 20,190 -14.9	wldll	Leeds (a Sat)

TRANSFERS: Eric Cantona (Manchester Utd) from Leeds, £1.2 million; Craig Hignett (Middlesbrough) from Crewe, £500,000; Andrew Scott (Sheffield Utd) from Sutton Utd, £50,000. LOANS: Ashley Pickering (Sheffield Utd) to Darlington; Michael Lake (Sheffield Utd) to Wrexham.

□ All statistics relate to the Premier League only.

سكز امت الأصل

Drama in opening World Cup slalom of the season as favourite crashes twice

Tomba's tumble lets in Tescari

FROM DAVID POWELL
IN SESTRIERE

ITALY did not know whether to laugh or cry yesterday when its favourite skier, Alberto Tomba, fell in the opening World Cup slalom of the season only for his compatriot, Fabrizio Tescari, to take his first win on the circuit. Some 20,000 supporters journeyed high into the Italian Alps to see Tomba take the lead on the first run, but what they got. On the second it was tumbling Tomba.

Tomba, the world slalom champion, went over not once but twice. His first run had put him so far ahead, almost a second, that even when he fell on the high part of the course he thought he might still salvage a top-ten position by skiing on. But down he went again, and his disgust was obvious as he leant on his poles and stared long and hard at the ground.

"I should have taken it easy," Tomba said, recognising that his first run had put victory in the bag with the zip almost fastened. It was with great regret that he added: "The left ski just went out and I lost my line, a stupid mistake." An expensive one. The age of serious prize-money has dawned this season and Tomba's error cost him \$60,000 (some £39,000). The cost to Tomba in sponsors' bonuses can be put at more than \$100,000.

Tescari's previous best World Cup finish was fifteenth, here last year. His high start number, 28, was an indication of his standing, but he skied with venom to finish the first run in second place. At that point he was concerned more with defending his position than with attacking Tomba. "I was thinking only of finishing in the top three," Tescari said. And how did it feel to beat Tomba, winner of the last two World Cup slaloms here? "I didn't beat him," Tescari said abruptly.

Tescari, aged 23, comes from the small northern town of Asiago where ski jumping and cross-country are popular, but alpine skiers are few and far between. A bad fall two years ago put him out for a season and, like Tomba, he



A turn for the better: Tescari, here en route to finishing second on his first run, went on to secure victory

stuns the high speed disciplines of downhill and super giant slalom.

Kjetil Andre Aamodt, of Norway, does them all, and until the second slalom run, he had spent the weekend looking every inch a potential overall World Cup winner. He won the giant slalom on Saturday, the first race of the season, while Tomba was second. Afterwards Aamodt was elevated by Tomba to equal status with Paul Accola, the defending champion, and Marc Girardelli, winner of four World Cups.

Aamodt was on Tescari's heels after the first slalom run, but lost his balance near the top of the second. But, since Accola and Girardelli both had an inauspicious weekend, Aamodt has the early advantage on the leader board. He looks like a young Brian

Clough, especially his eyes, but his legs are straight from the Tomba mould. All muscle and power.

How had he built such strength? "I live in a four-room apartment and walk the stairs," he said. "I also do weights." He was keeping quiet about the ballet training, useful for his balance. After yesterday perhaps he should book some extra lessons.

RESULTS: Men's giant slalom (Saturday): 1. K. Aamodt (Nor), 1:49.45; 2. A. Tomba (It), 1:49.51; 3. P. Accola (It), 1:49.54; 4. M. Girardelli (It), 1:49.58; 5. M. Aamodt (Nor), 1:50.02; 6. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.05; 7. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.08; 8. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.11; 9. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.14; 10. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.17; 11. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.20; 12. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.23; 13. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.26; 14. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.29; 15. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.32; 16. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.35; 17. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.38; 18. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.41; 19. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.44; 20. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.47; 21. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.50; 22. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.53; 23. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.56; 24. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:50.59; 25. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.02; 26. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.05; 27. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.08; 28. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.11; 29. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.14; 30. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.17; 31. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.20; 32. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.23; 33. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.26; 34. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.29; 35. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.32; 36. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.35; 37. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.38; 38. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.41; 39. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.44; 40. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.47; 41. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.50; 42. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.53; 43. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.56; 44. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:51.59; 45. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:52.02; 46. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:52.05; 47. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:52.08; 48. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:52.11; 49. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:52.14; 50. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:52.17; 51. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:52.20; 52. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:52.23; 53. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:52.26; 54. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:52.29; 55. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:52.32; 56. M. Tschann (Austria), 1:52.35; 57. M. 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Over The Deel can make amends for Cheltenham lapse

Maguire, nicknamed the

Close encounter: Sibton Abbey, nearest camera, getting the better of a thrilling Hennessy duel with Jodami at Newbury on Saturday

Jodami's excellent run is further proof that last season's novice chasers were an above-average crop and points to a cold show from Martin Pipe's Sun Alliance Chase winner, Minnehoma, in the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow on Saturday.

"He will come back for the King George at Kempton and then go straight for the Cheltenham Gold Cup."

Henry VIII Novices' Chase.
Big-race details
1.80 HENNESSY COGNAC GOLD CUP
 (Handicap chase; grade III; £36,100; 3
 28 110yds)
1. SUTTON ABBEY (A Maresay, 40-1);
2. BOSTON M Doves (V. S. 30-1);
3. Fiddlers (A. K. 10-1);
4. ALDO (R. 5-1);
5. Chastam (4H);
6. Captain Dibble (-13;
 Gambling Royal) (5H);
7. 11 Twin Oaks (to 12 Party Politics) (4H);
8. Lattent Talent (to 25 Bishops) (4H);
9. 50 Spoking (4H);
10. 11 Bishops (4H);
11. 13 ran. 34 (4H);
12. 414 (4H);
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User Friendly was beaten nearly six lengths and did not help her cause by pulling hard throughout. Brittain said: "It's the end of a long season and she pulled hard. But she's such a game filly. She will now have a holiday and be aimed at the Eclipse and other big races next year."

Tokyo result
Going: good
JAPAN CUP (Group I: 2738,816: 1m 40")
1, TOKAI TEIO (Y Okabe, 9-1); 2, Naturalist (J. Dittmer, 57-10); 3, Dear Doctor (C. Amussen, 8-1). User Friendly (22-1) 22-10 fav, ALSO RAN; Legacy World (40-1), Heli Midway (5th), User Friendly (6th), Let's Be Ropes (7th), Let's Go Tsurugi (8th), Rango Dikus (9th), Dr. Devious (10th), Quest For Fame (11th), Yamanin Global (12th), Vani Amade (13th), Hachishu Shogun, 14, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211st, 212nd, 213th, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311st, 312nd, 313th, 314th, 315th, 316th, 317th, 318th, 319th, 320th, 321st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th, 325th, 326th, 327th, 328th, 329th, 330th, 331st, 332nd, 333rd, 334th, 335th, 336th, 337th, 338th, 339th, 340th, 341st, 342nd, 343rd, 344th, 345th, 346th, 347th, 348th, 349th, 350th, 351st, 352nd, 353rd, 354th, 355th, 356th, 357th, 358th, 359th, 360th, 361st, 362nd, 363rd, 364th, 365th, 366th, 367th, 368th, 369th, 370th, 371st, 372nd, 373rd, 374th, 375th, 376th, 377th, 378th, 379th, 380th, 381st, 382nd, 383rd, 384th, 385th, 386th, 387th, 388th, 389th, 390th, 391st, 392nd, 393rd, 394th, 395th, 396th, 397th, 398th, 399th, 400th, 401st, 402nd, 403rd, 404th, 405th, 406th, 407th, 408th, 409th, 410th, 411st, 412nd, 413th, 414th, 415th, 416th, 417th, 418th, 419th, 420th, 421st, 422nd, 423rd, 424th, 425th, 426th, 427th, 428th, 429th, 430th, 431st, 432nd, 433rd, 434th, 435th, 436th, 437th, 438th, 439th, 440th, 441st, 442nd, 443rd, 444th, 445th, 446th, 447th, 448th, 449th, 450th, 451st, 452nd, 453rd, 454th, 455th, 456th, 457th, 458th, 459th, 460th, 461st, 462nd, 463rd, 464th, 465th, 466th, 467th, 468th, 469th, 470th, 471st, 472nd, 473rd, 474th, 475th, 476th, 477th, 478th, 479th, 480th, 481st, 482nd, 483rd, 484th, 485th, 486th, 487th, 488th, 489th, 490th, 491st, 492nd, 493rd, 494th, 495th, 496th, 497th, 498th, 499th, 500th, 501st, 502nd, 503rd, 504th, 505th, 506th, 507th, 508th, 509th, 510th, 511st, 512nd, 513th, 514th, 515th, 516th, 517th, 518th, 519th, 520th, 521st, 522nd, 523rd, 524th, 525th, 526th, 527th, 528th, 529th, 530th, 531st, 532nd, 533rd, 534th, 535th, 536th, 537th, 538th, 539th, 540th, 541st, 542nd, 543rd, 544th, 545th, 546th, 547th, 548th, 549th, 550th, 551st, 552nd, 553rd, 554th, 555th, 556th, 557th, 558th, 559th, 560th, 561st, 562nd, 563rd, 564th, 565th, 566th, 567th, 568th, 569th, 570th, 571st, 572nd, 573rd, 574th, 575th, 576th, 577th, 578th, 579th, 580th, 581st, 582nd, 583rd, 584th, 585th, 586th, 587th, 588th, 589th, 590th, 591st, 592nd, 593rd, 594th, 595th, 596th, 597th, 598th, 599th, 600th, 601st, 602nd, 603rd, 604th, 605th, 606th, 607th, 608th, 609th, 610th, 611st, 612nd, 613th, 614th, 615th, 616th, 617th, 618th, 619th, 620th, 621st, 622nd, 623rd, 624th, 625th, 626th, 627th, 628th, 629th, 630th, 631st, 632nd, 633rd, 634th, 635th, 636th, 637th, 638th, 639th, 640th, 641st, 642nd, 643rd, 644th, 645th, 646th, 647th, 648th, 649th, 650th, 651st, 652nd, 653rd, 654th, 655th, 656th, 657th, 658th, 659th, 660th, 661st, 662nd, 663rd, 664th, 665th, 666th, 667th, 668th, 669th, 670th, 671st, 672nd, 673rd, 674th, 675th, 67

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losses percentage	Loss ratio
R Donnelly	81	36	30	0	-94
P Newn	47	26	19	1	+30
P Scudamore	45	24	14	5	-32
A Morgan	41	43	26	8	+3
J Osborn	34	15	25	10	+30
G McConat	26	24	18	9	-29
N Doughty	25	14	16	1	-17
S Mitchell	25	10	15	1	+33
C Llewellyn	22	17	14	10	+2

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Total
M. Papp	48	24	23	1	-1
G. Richards	42	24	22	2	-7
Bills & Rowley	35	14	19	3	-
W.A. Stephenson	33	22	20	16	-5
D. Nicholson	31	24	8	1	+3
N. Twiss-Davies	29	13	12	10	+2
N. Henderson	16	11	6	1	-4
Miles & Knight	17	4	13	3	+2
M.H. Eastwood	16	14	8	6	+1

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W. A. Stephens	37	216	17.1	L. O'Neil	13	74	17.5
G. Wilson	16	88	18.2	K. Johnson	7	38	18.4
M. J. Kennedy	6	29	20.7	M. Dryer	14	75	18.4

FORM FOCUS

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 Languages: none except. **Keywords:** (Page 17)
 Cramer (p-1); 3. Knight (p-1); 1. Hart,
 David I., Director (16-1); 2. Johnson (p-2); 3.
 Irish Day (2-1 Ray, 9 am, 1st. Pleasant Land,
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1 (2) 300431 ARABOROV 29 (20) (K. Khan) L. Hall 9-7 _____ A. Moore

Two last year was second to Blue Daisy in the listed Prix d'Arrivée.

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OPERA page 30
Yoko Watanabe: her performance as Butterfly is one of the most memorable of our time

ARTS

GALLERIES page 31
And when did you last see your father? Narrative painting on show in Liverpool



THEATRE: Sir Michael Hordern tells Benedict Nightingale why his new stage role may be his last

Reeling in the years for a final cast

No wonder Sir Michael Hordern was looking mournful as he sat over his tea-cakes and looked out of his hotel window at the grey Brighton sea. For him, too, 1992 has been a bit of an annus horribilis, or, as he put it in his mild, apologetic way, "not a very good year for health". Getting out of a chair is still a cumbersome business, thanks to an operation last spring in which his knees were painfully rebuilt. About the same time he developed a kidney problem which put him into intensive care. As rehearsals for Piner's *Trelawny of the Wells* neared, "I had an ulcer burst and internal bleeding and blood transfusions and, oh dear, all sorts of things."

It says much for his dogged professionalism that, at the age of 81, he is bringing that fierce old Victorian patriarch, Piner's Sir William Gower, via Brighton's Theatre Royal to the Comedy. But *Trelawny* will almost certainly be Sir Michael's adieu to the stage. Eight performances a week are, he says, pretty exhausting. "Also, I find it difficult to remember: it's as simple as that. Here in Brighton I've been trembling with lack of confidence every night. By now I would usually have put the script away in a drawer, but I carry it around with me all the time. I've been spending the first part of the play looking at my lines for the second part."

That has proved frustrating as well as alarming for Sir Michael. There is only one way he normally prepares in advance for a role, and that is by ensuring he carries a perfect photograph of the words in his head. This means he can arrive at rehearsals without any preconceptions about the character he is playing and allow them to define it for him. But how could that happen when, as he ruefully told me, "some of Sir William Gower is still more Hordern than Piner"? The management offered him a tiny earphone through which he could be prompted. "But I said, no, I shall ask to be released from my contract if that comes about, because it kills all spontaneity."

Spontaneity and freshness are key words in Sir Michael's vocabulary. He regards himself as an instinctual actor, and, though he likes a director with a firm guiding hand, unpredictability has long been one of his great qualities on the stage. He has always preferred parts in which he can find and express new things even after the play has opened: Prospero, who on some nights was more crusty and

less benign than on others; Lear, painfully battling the complex symptoms of senility; or the flustered philosopher in Tom Stoppard's *Jumpers*.

"I must have done that play 250 times, and on the 250th I came off and said to myself, yes, I see. I was discovering the character all the time. On the other hand, nothing is more boring than some light comedies. Once you've achieved the satisfaction of getting the timing right, and getting it right every night, there is nothing left to think about. There's not much to learn in *Rookery Nook*."

For all Sir Michael's apprehensions, his Gower has clearly been changing and growing en route to

'I've always hated the thought of being typed, and I never have been'

London. Just before we met, he discovered that, if he sat in a slightly more commanding place on stage, a scene that was making him and the audience feel uneasy suddenly began to exercise its power. Moreover, his instincts were obviously working overtime on the climactic moment when Sir William, the austere enemy of all actors, is won over when he recalls seeing Kean's Lear with Cordelia. "I, Michael Hordern, remember playing *King Lear* and what she meant to me. I find myself playing the scene with tears in my eyes and a catch in my throat, I can't help it. I just want to break down every evening."

From another actor, that might sound sentimental or pretentious. Not from Hordern, the most affably unaffected of men or, as he would say, countrymen. He hates the precision to which the profession is prone and seldom goes to the theatre or to theatre jamborees, preferring a quiet life at his cottage in rural Berkshire. His knee trouble has made walking, riding and tending his vegetables difficult; but along with his special passion, fishing, they remain his preferred pursuits.

That sense of priorities has probably helped him as an actor, since, as he says, "you meet real

people, you do natural things, you keep your feet on the ground." But it is causing him problems with the one extra-curricular activity on which he is now engaged, the preparation of an autobiography tentatively titled *A World Elsewhere*. "So many actors leap into print at the end of their careers, and I find most of them insufferably boring. It's production after production, and I simply can't remember most of my productions. But ask me about catching my first trout and I'll write you a chapter."

Theatrical knight though he may be, Hordern has long displayed a most untheatrical lack of ambition. He has, he says, never badgered a management to play a particular part or, as far as he can remember, turned one down. He has simply accepted what came along, with the result that his career has been an odd mix of roles, from Caliban to Mr Toad to Prospero to the eccentric old schoolmaster he recently played in Keith Waterhouse's *Bookends*. "I've always hated the thought of being typed, and I never have been. I'd hate to be a light-comedy actor longing to play *King Lear*, or a classical actor who played all the Richards and Henrys and longed to play *Rookery Nook*. Thank goodness, I've had the career I wanted."

But is that career really almost over? Must we ring down the curtain on that long, flummoxed face and those strange, stricken vowel-sounds, and send Hordern back to his cabbages in Berkshire? Well, there is always film and television, twin media of which he has had much experience. Only last spring he was seen in the BBC's adaptation of Muriel Spark's *Memento Mori* as an elderly literatus being blackmailed for his sexual indiscretions: a wonderfully subtle, funny performance.

Hordern has mixed feelings about appearing on screens either large or small — "I like audiences, I like the sense of reality they bring, talking into a camera isn't the same thing." — but he does not discount the prospect. Nor would he necessarily refuse an invitation from a theatre company that did not insist on a debilitating eight performance week. Ralph Richardson gave a memorable cameo as Firs in Chekhov's *Cherry Orchard* at the Olivier towards the end of his days. If the National, which presented Hordern in *Jumpers*, had another 70 or 80-year-old in its repertoire, I suspect he would listen.

• *Trelawny of the Wells* previews from Wednesday and opens on December 7 at the Comedy (071-367 1045)



Sir Michael Hordern as Sir William Gower, a Victorian patriarch, in *Trelawny of the Wells*

ARTS BRIEFING

Latest score lines

ANOTHER hero of the musical world has revealed a strange obsession with football. Michael Nyman, the "minimalist" composer much favoured by the filmmaker Peter Greenaway and the more avant-garde dance companies, is to celebrate the football club Queen's Park Rangers, and its most famous player Stan Bowles, in his music. He is writing a piece, *The Final Score*, for Channel 4's *Without Walls* series, to be broadcast on December 8. Nigel Kennedy's purple passion for Aston Villa is a vital part of the violinist's public persona, and such illustrious musicians as Claudio Abbado and José Carreras have been known to rearrange performances if Inter-Milan or Barcelona have vital cup ties.

• MORE staff cuts may be on the way at the Arts Council as it contemplates the 2 per cent increase in its budget announced by the herbage department. The council's secretary-general, Anthony Everitt, has announced that administration costs will rise by only 1.5 per cent — a pegging back that will involve scrutiny of all office expenditure from paper clips to staff jobs. "Next year we are going to squeeze overheads again to enable us to fund artists and art organisations, which is what we exist to do. It is going to be very painful." A £600,000 cutback during this financial year has already led to the loss of 30 posts.

Paris matches

VISITORS to Paris next month can see three former stars of the Bolshoi Ballet in unfamiliar roles. Maya Plisetskaya will be at L'Esplanade Pierre Cardin from December 5 to 23 in a new ballet, *The Mad Woman of Chaillet*, made for her by Gligi Căciuleanu after Giraudoux's play. Her husband Rodion Shchedrin has written the music.

Then Ekaterina Maximova and Vladimir Vasiliev open at the Palais des Congrès on December 17 in a new production by Vasiliev of Prokofiev's *Cinderella*. But although she will dance the title part, he plays not her dream Prince but the wicked (and comic) stepmother. The run is until January 3; other dancers will take the roles at some performances.

Last chance...

JAMES SAUNDERS's amusing and intelligent *Making It Better* was a civilised choice of play for the long awaited re-opening of that Victorian gem, the Criterion Theatre. It has also allowed Jane Asher to give her strongest performance in years as a sexual innocent who falls into the emotional clutches of two Czechoslovakian émigrés, one elderly and dog-eared, the other young and go-getting. But it is time to make way for the stage adaptation of Stephen King's *Misery*. The final performance of *Making It Better* is on Saturday (071-839 4488).

B. N.

Michael Bogdanov's new English Shakespeare Company production of *The Tempest* appears to be set on an island in the Thames

Some enchanted evening

Give Michael Bogdanov a simple stage direction, "the island, before Prospero's cell", and what do he and his English Shakespeare Company offer in return? The end of a vast sewer pipe, a bit of concrete jetty, the wreck of a Mini, and, behind them, what looks like a shadowy mix of an oil refinery and the National Theatre. John Woodvine, whom the programme identifies as Prospero, sits in a brown jacket, green corduroy trousers and white plimsolls, reading a book. Julie Saunders, soon to be a peppy Miranda, is at an old stove. Urban

drifters scuttle across the stage of the Royal with a screeching stereo, hammering the car as they pass. If this is an island of sounds and sweet airs situated between Carthage and Milan, then Rotherhithe is Atlantis and the M25 the Milky Way.

But then Woodvine nods off, a spotlight isolates him, tinkling fills the air, and the play begins. Ah ha.

Perhaps this is Gervase Prospero, the failed intellectual, dreaming Shakespeare's *Tempest* in protest against the dire circumstances into which economic fate has plunged him. But that does not explain the academic gown he proceeds to put on. Perhaps, then, this is Associate Professor Wilbur Prospero, contenting himself for his failure to get promotion and tenure with a

megamaniac fantasy in which he bests his enemies, Dr Caliban, Dean Sebastian, and Chairman of the English Faculty, Alonso.

Who can say? There is nothing in what follows that justifies Bogdanov's decision to pave over Shakespeare's imagination, as the end, when I had hoped all would be revealed, nothing suggestive or helpful occurs. A bulldozer does not trundle on stage, rudely awakening poor Prospero, nor do a gang of muggers come to restore him to reality. All that happens is that Woodvine delivers the epilogue in the usual way and breaks his walking stick in half, leaving the rest of us to muse grumpily on a misspent evening.

In this setting everything seems as out of place as a three-masted schooner on Spaghetti Junction. The shipwrecked lords pour on-stage in a procession of ambassadors, bandmen, cinema commissioners, Gilbertian admirals, Salvation Army generals, and clones of Edward VII. Tony Haggard's Trinculo and Sean Baker's Stefano arrive dressed for a judo bout or maybe a rather tacky Elvis Presley look-alike contest.

Moreover, such efforts as Bogdanov makes to introduce magic into the visual equation seem inept or impertinent. The spirits who bring Alonso his banquet come straight from *Ghostbusters*, their "excellent dumb discourse" a matter of undulating about inside pillowcases. The "dainty" Ariel turns out to be Olwen Fouéré, a solid, unsmiling lady in a mauve trouser-suit. The idea of having her cross the stage on a tightrope when she is casting a spell might work, but she is concentrating so hard on not falling off that enchantment is the last thing she projects.

I have seen fine performances in unfriendly circumstances. Not here. To play Gonzalo as an obviously self-satisfied pedant, as Hugh Sullivan does, is to make

may think he has lost his son; but John Darrell is wrong to turn him into a melodramatic crybaby who reacts to every setback as though he were Henry Irving mimicking Larry the Lamb. And just what does Woodvine think he is doing?

There may well be the makings of a performance here. His Prospero exudes gruff authority. He also puts across the speech about us being "such stuff as dreams are made on" in the kind of spectral tones actors adopt when they wish it to be known that they are being profound. But what kind of man does he add up to? Why is he here? Would he have done better to stay in his dressing-room?

B. N.



His Holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

founder of Transcendental Meditation, Maharishi's Vedic Science and Technology, Maharishi Vedic University, and Maharishi Ayur-Ved, has discovered the Constitution of the Universe in the self-referral consciousness of everyone, and in the intelligence within every grain of creation. With this knowledge, any area of personal and professional life can be raised to perfection; and any government can rise above problems and gain the ability to satisfy the diverse aspirations of all its people.

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EIGHT-WEEK COURSES BEGIN on Mondays: 30 November 1992; 11 January 1993; 8 March 1993

ONE-WEEK COURSES BEGIN 7, 14, and 21 December 1992; 4 January 1993; 22 March 1993

Participants completing one course may choose to take any other course in the subsequent 8-week block.

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TO APPLY: Maharishi Vedic University Course Office, Hoge Bockelerweg 255, 7627 DP, Breda, The Netherlands. Tel. 0163 267775. Fax 0163 267776.

مكتبة الأصيل

LONDON

YOUNG BASHMITE: The distinguished vocalists perform in a new production of the musical *YOUNG BASHMITE* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-240 6669/111), tonight, 7.30pm.

MADAMA BUTTERFLY: Nurea Esperto's 1987 Scottish Opera staging of *Madama Butterfly*, in which the Spanish producer achieved the combination of atmosphere and drama that has eluded her in her subsequent operatic work at Covent Garden, is rescheduled at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-240 6669/111), tonight, 7.30pm.

CHICO FREEMAN: The Royal Opera House's production of *Chico Freeman* arrives for a week-long residency. Ronnie Scott's, 47, Friar Street, W1 (071-494 0747), tonight-Sat, 8.30pm.

ORCHESTRE REVOLUTIONNAIRE ET ROMANTIQUE: John Eliot Gardiner conducts the period-instrument orchestra and the Monteverdi Choir in a performance of Verdi's Requiem. A series of early recordings includes *Lucia* (Orchestra), Anne Sofie von Otter, Lucie Arncliffe and Alexander Miles. Westchester Cathedral, SW1 tickets available from Ticket Master on 071-730 4444, 7.30pm.

WISDOM AND COMPASSION: THE SACRED ART OF TEA. More than 100 rare paintings, sculptures and tapestries in a huge show of Tibetan art.

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Ken Knight

dating from the 9th century to the present day and inspired by the play *'Ani for God's Sake'* (discussing the importance of religious art from an Eastern and Western perspective). Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-430 7438). Daily, 10am-6pm, tickets, 7.30-8.30pm.

HAPPY AND GLOUBIOUS: A tribute to the Queen in celebration of 40 years on the throne, with appearances by a multitude of stars including Sir John Gielgud, Diana Rigg, Patsy Stone and Paul Scofield. Assembled by the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward and Princess Margaret. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, W1 (071-430 8888), Sat, 8pm.

REGIONAL: BELFAST: Scott Tracy, Captain Scarlett, Lady Penelope and the Mystery Men in *Thunderbirds F.A.B.*, the play inspired by Gerry Anderson's cult television series of the 1960s. The production, which celebrates the 25th anniversary of that original series, is touring the country. Grand Victoria Street (0232 241919), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Sat, 2.30pm.

WISDOM AND COMPASSION: THE SACRED ART OF TEA. More than 100 rare paintings, sculptures and tapestries in a huge show of Tibetan art.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only some seats available. Seats at all prices.

John Woodcock the actor Prospero. Royal, Portland Street (071-430 8888), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Sat, 2.30pm.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND: A comedy by John M. Sturges. Royal, Portland Street (071-430 8888), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Sat, 2.30pm.

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS: A play by James Fenimore Cooper. Royal, Portland Street (071-430 8888), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Sat, 2.30pm.

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MUSIC THEATRE: Puccini at the ROH; a Slovak first; and dramatic Birtwistle

Personal triumph against the odds

Madama Butterfly
Covent Garden

SERIOUS reservations about Nuria Esperto's five-year-old production of *Butterfly* will not go away. It seems perverse to set an opera that is largely about increasing isolation in a generously populated tenement block rather than the lonely house envisaged by the composer; to present a protagonist so drab in her grubby floral jogging pants that she would be unlikely to attract the attention of Prince Yamadori, let alone a US naval lieutenant in search of exotic delights; indeed to make Pinkerton such an obvious clown, which less the audience off the hook. Many crucial moments are clumsily staged — seldom can the Bonze's entry have gone for so little.

On the other hand, the actual portrayal of *Butterfly* developed by Esperto and Yoko Watanabe, who returned to Covent Garden in triumph on Friday, is one of the most memorable of our time. Watanabe's voice is ideal. It is tough, vibrant, generously projected, and fully equal to the demands Puccini makes on it, especially in a version of the text with no interval in the second act. Even the most cynical opera-goer will have recognised that her physical exhaustion at the curtain calls was genuine. Yet in its attractive "whiteness" and clarity, Watanabe's soprano also suggests fragility and vulnerability: the combination is perfect.

There is an extraordinary consistency to her interpretation. The traditional easy way with *Butterfly* is to play the child-bride in the first act and move straight to the tragedy queen in the second. No suspension of disbelief is required by Watanabe's 15-year-old at the opening, but in Act II she reminded me as no other *Butterfly*



Ideal heroine with first-rate support: *Butterfly* (Yoko Watanabe) and Suzuki (Anne Mason)

quite has that she is still only 18. Her reactions to Sharpless's letter, to Yamadori, even the harbour cannon, were those of a naive teenager, not a mature woman — this was especially telling in her potentially embarrassing discussion on the differences between US and Japanese divorce procedures. We were concerned, then, with the destruction of a child rather than a Joan Crawford-style posture. The result was indescribably poignant. Watanabe's triumph was all the more heart-warming in that it took place in — how to put it? — less than

ideal surroundings. Arthur Davies gave an honest, steady Pinkerton, and Malcolm Donnelly an equally honest but less steady Sharpless. No disrespect intended — quite the opposite — but this was English National Opera casting at Covent Garden prices. Anne Mason (Suzuki) and the immortal John Dobson (Goro) were first-rate; other roles were frankly understated.

Once what happened in the plot I would prefer to draw a veil. Susan Edwards was conducting her first *Butterfly*; fine everyone has to start somewhere, but it is a symptom of the

way opera is organised nowadays that she should be starting at Covent Garden rather than the Bodley Municipal Opera. Jerkily, inconsistently related tempos, little sense of Puccinian line or "lift" — or indeed sensuousness — and a fatal lack of singing quality in the phrasing: most seriously, the performance simply wasn't sufficiently together. If voices and orchestra hit a Puccinian G-spot a good beat apart, as happened too often, the effect is halved, not doubled. Not good enough.

RODNEY MILNES

Suppressed, but never silenced

Petrified
The Place

MECKLENBURGH Opera has a reputation for exploring interesting byways of contemporary European work, and has added to it with the British premiere of Juraj Benes's *Petrified* — *Skamenen* in the original. This is claimed to be the first performance of a Slovak opera in England, which will have ethno-historians leading through their records, but Mecklenburgh is probably on a safe wicket, indeed one from which, strictly speaking, the covers have yet to be removed.

Benes was born in 1940, studied with Clikker, has worked as dramaturg for the Slovak National Opera, and teaches musical theory in Bratislava. He has three operas under his belt, one based on The Emperor's New Clothes (1966), a good subject for a composer living under a communist regime. *Petrified*, a one-act chamber opera playing for 60 minutes, dates from 1974 and was written in reaction to the suppression of the Prague Spring: the title refers to the effect of that suppression on Slovak society, turned to stone rather than struck dumb with terror. Composers are never silenced.

In the circumstances, though, Benes

had to approach his subject obliquely. The text is assembled from verses by the 19th-century poet Janko Kráľ, and the structure is not dissimilar to that of Janáček's *Diary of One Who Disappeared*. A poet regarded with suspicion by small-town society loves Hanka; they elope but quarrel; she returns to an arranged marriage; he comes back in his turn and murder and suicide are the result. There are echoes, then, of *Blood Wedding* and *Kayakabonova*. Benes's musical language is inspired by influences from the south rather than the west: Bartók and Kodály loom large and there is a prominent part for cimbalom in the seven-strong instrumental ensemble. Characters are unashamedly associated with individual instruments, and the most eloquent writing is for voice in counterpoint with single-strand accompaniment.

The success of Thursday's premiere performance rightly rested as much on instrumental as on vocal prowess

Madeline Mitchell's violin and Ingrid Culliford's flute were first amongst equals in the fine ensemble directed with calm assurance by Anne Manson. Oddly enough, in a small theatre like The Place balance is as much of a problem as anywhere else, and careful diction added to the obliquity of the action. It is especially frustrating when, right at the beginning, the answer to the repeated question "How is your son?" is each time inaudible.

The action is laid out for the two principals and an individually characterised chorus of six, though the designations in the programme did not always chime in with those presented in John Abulafia's expressionist production. But the impression of a society made ugly by spiritual beauty holding up a mirror to its own despair was powerfully conveyed, and the leading roles were beautifully sung by Patricia Rozario and Richard Hailston. Elusive and oblique *Petrified* may be, but there is a haunting quality to it that lasts long after curtain-fall. There are six further performances ending on December 5.

R.M.

Legendary strong meat

Bow Down
Queen Elizabeth Hall

forward. As in Birtwistle's opera *The Mask of Orpheus*, the tale is presented as a montage of different versions (including Scottish, Northumbrian and Danish variants). The overlapping of these versions, together with their charmed refrains, builds a subtle inner tension that no straightforward narrative could achieve.

Graham Devin's production at the QEH on Thursday, with his own company Major Road, explored these

tensions to superb effect, with the aid of Ben Ormerod's skilful lighting. The rhythm of the refrains might have been more sharply pointed, but I liked the shades of mood, not least the black humour, that Devin drew out. The quality of declamation was generally good, and Verity Watts and Jules Davison as the sisters did justice to Sean Walsh's evocative choreography.

The first item of the evening's triple bill was *Tigida Pipa* by the American

composer Stephen Montague. The "lyrics", such as they were, consisted largely of plosive consonants crunched by four members of the ensemble, accompanying themselves on modest percussion instruments. The format may sound familiar but this was a breath-takingly virtuosic display by both composer and performers.

The third work was *Panzola* by Andrew Ford, with text by Barbara Blackman, retelling the story of an early world-beat astronaut foray. The events of the tale, and the unfortunate boy's trajectory, are neatly reflected in the arcing structure of the work.

BARRY MILLINGTON

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

SPRING, King Street, St James's, W1 (071-494 0747), Sat, 10am-6pm.

CINEMAS

CURSON MAYFAIR Cinema, SL 071 494 0747, Sat, 10am-6pm.

OPERA & BALLET

CURSON MAYFAIR Cinema, SL 071 494 0747, Sat, 10am-6pm.

THEATRES

ADRIENNE PT 071 7611 0071, Sat, 10am-6pm.

CINEMAS

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VISUAL ART: New light on a familiar painting at Liverpool's Walker Art Gallery, and recommended shows elsewhere in the city

When did you last see your history?

John Russell

Taylor on a famous Victorian canvas which offers insight into the nature of narrative painting

Francis Turner Palgrave, the creator of that arch-Victorian compendium *The Golden Treasury*, once observed with approval that the St John's Wood Clique painted "the lost pages of history". What he meant, of course, was that they approached the great movements of history by way of personal anecdote. Not for nothing was the most famous painting the group produced, W.F. Yeames's *And When Did You Last See Your Father?*, the next crystallisation of 1866 and *All That's Wrong-but-Romantic/Right-but-Repulsive* definition of the opposing sides in the English Civil War.

It is undoubtedly one of the best-known images in the whole of British painting. Even now, generations after it was last used as a standard schoolbook illustration, cartoonists can refer to it obliquely, applying it to any current political investigation, and feel sure the world at large will know exactly what they mean. The latest cartoon of this sort, in the catalogue of the *And When Did You Last See Your Father?* show at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, dates from 1990 (Prince Henry being asked the same question by the media), but the show itself is able to slip in yet another, not off this year's presses. The picture's persistence is a curious phenomenon, especially considering that probably not one in a thousand familiar with the picture could name the painter.

Indeed, in the show it transpires that even the things we think we know about the picture are mostly untrue. It is assumed, for instance, that since it stands as a sort of model of Victorian story-telling in



W.F. Yeames's *And When Did You Last See Your Father?*: probably one of the best-known images in British painting, but how many people could name the artist?

paint (it dates from 1878), its overwhelming fame must date back to Victorian times. But the Walker Art Gallery, which owns the picture, has kept meticulous note of all the occasions when it has been licensed for reproduction, which indicates that it did not really begin to be famous until after 1900. It was never the subject, like so many Victorian blockbusters, of a best-selling engraving, and took off in popular estimation only after it first appeared in illustration of a school history text in 1902.

Even if its inescapability has been significantly reduced today (the second and more faithful Madame Tussaud's tableau based on the painting was dismantled in 1989),

the painting itself is benefiting from a renewed interest in the narrative strategies of art: for a generation schooled in asking the right questions about Conceptual Art and reading the signs to determine the meaning, it no longer seems so irrelevant to decipher the significance of a weeping child or a nervously clutched string of beads. And examined carefully in this way, Yeames's treatment of his Roundhead/Cavalier confrontation is more even-handed than it at first appears.

Clearly from other pictures in the show, the late 19th-century St John's Wood Clique, and indeed Victorian painters in general, were fascinated by the Civil War, its

drama and its decorative appurtenances, but did not find it necessary to plump definitively for one side or the other. On the wall to the left of the entrance are pictures seemingly sympathetic to the romance of the dashing cavalier; to the right are those turned on, with the encouragement of Carlyle, by the moral fervour and lofty ideals of the Cromwellians. Frequently the same painters could happily appear in both camps.

While Yeames obviously intends sympathy to lie with the interrogated boy, it is interesting that between the sketch and the finished painting he has made the boy older; more likely to be aware of the moral choice between telling a damaging

truth and a loyal lie. Nor are the Parliamentarians caricatured, as in Edgar Bundy's savagely coloured *The Word*, or presented as monsters. The overall effect is finally as ambiguous as Augustus Egg's (unsuccessful) project for a Palace of Westminster mural on the subject of *Charles I Raising his Standard at Nottingham*, where the heroic overtones of the incident are instantly subverted by the apocalyptic, doom-laden sky.

History painting and its effects on perceptions of history are at the moment sustaining a lot of scrutiny. In Spain, where the Prado's collection of vast 19th-century historical canvases has been retrieved from exile in provincial museums,

restored and put on show as part of Madrid's year as Cultural Capital of Europe, the interest is obvious, as is the problem: the sheer size of the paintings. Mercifully, most of our own Victorian history paintings are much more modest, and *And When Did You Last See Your Father?* has been well loved and looked after in Liverpool. The present show capitalises on its familiarity, but also persuades visitors to look at it with new eyes, and question how it signifies as well as what.

● *And When Did You Last See Your Father?* is at the Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street, Liverpool (051-207 0001) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun noon-5pm, until Jan 10.

CRITIC'S CHOICE GALLERIES

● **STANLEY SPENCER: A SORT OF HEAVEN.** Typical at the moment, with the publication of Keith Bell's authoritative catalogue raisonné of Spencer, this assemblage of Spencer brings together all sorts and conditions, with the emphasis on the eccentrically religious (until Jan 7). Also Myth-Making, a rather arbitrary gathering of Abstract Expressionist American painting by Rothko, Pollock and Barnett Newman (until Jan 10); and *Natural Order*, some of the Tate's recent sculptural acquisitions, including works by Mario Merz and Rebecca Horn as well as the homegrown Tony Cragg and Anthony Gormley (until Jan 24).

Fate Gallery, Albert Dock, Liverpool (051-709 3223). Tues-Sun, 10am-6pm.

● **EXPRESSIONS OF BELIEF.** An ambitious travelling exhibition originating in Rotterdam, receiving its only British showing in Liverpool, brings together ceremonial, ritual and personal objects from the various religious backgrounds of Africa, Oceania and Indonesia. Everything in the show has its function, but this can be obscure to outsiders, and the first requirement the show makes is aesthetic response, after which the visitor is invited to explore more deeply into the cultural context.

Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street (051-207 0001). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, midday-5pm, until April 18, 1993.

J.R.T.

25TH ANNIVERSARY CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION. The Bluecoat Gallery opened its doors late in 1967 as the prime Liverpool centre for contemporary visual arts. Since then it has presented more than 300 exhibitions, performances, installations and other events. A historical display of photographs, posters, catalogues and ephemera celebrates the gallery's distinguished career, as well as a selling show of some 30 gallery artists, including Andrzej Jackowski, Adrian Henri, Maurice Cockrell, Sokari Douglas Camp and many more.

Bluecoat Gallery, School Lane, Liverpool (051-709 5689). Tues-Sat, 10.30am-5pm, until Dec 19.

Blood relationships

THEATRE: Jeremy Kingston enjoys a lively new English version of a 17th-century Spanish drama on a biblical theme

Readers familiar with 11 Samuel xiii, or with Peter Shaffer's play, *Yonadab*, inspired by the same story, will know that Tamar was a daughter of King David raped by her half-brother Amnon, who was then slain by her full brother, Absalom. For fratricide and vice, the family rivalled the early Roman emperors, although David wrote better verses than Nero. Tiro de Molina, the Spanish monk celebrated as the author of the first account of Don Juan, fleshed out the biblical details of Amnon's crime into the full-length play translated here for the first time into English.

Paul Whitworth's version races along on its lines of unequal length, generally rhymed, and flexible enough to isolate the turning point of a character in a single line, as when Amnon declares: "I need to think - no - change

The Rape of Tamar
Lyric Studio,
Hammersmith

the way I think." Yet the translation is snappy enough to point a joke with a rhyme. Tamar speaks an excellent example of this, after agreeing to act the part of an enemy princess her brother pretends he once loved: "Great plot. Let's give it a whirl. / Israeli boy with Ammonite girl."

With language like this, the play can never be dull, or badly over. Perhaps the silver-haired David of Morris Perry is asked to greet the individual members of his family with rather ordinary and interchangeable homilies.

But generally the story grips. Particularly as there is no knowing what dramatic by-way Tiro will take his plot into. Now, one of Amnon's servants (Martin Hyder) launches into an absurdly gossipy account of doctors' fees; later, a wise-woman makes pointed prophecies as she gives the princes flowers at

Absalom's sheep shearing. This echoes a similar scene in *The Winter's Tale*; and when the bonny Absalom (Christopher Hollis) tries on his father's crown, Prince Hal's reckless behaviour in *Henry IV* comes to mind. Perhaps these are coincidences.

Again and again, Whitworth, who also directs, animates the scenes with sharp glances between actors, scraps of dance or a striking tableau: Tamar naked, denouncing her brother, or Amnon's blood soaking into a tablecloth.

Tiro does not account in dramatic terms for Amnon's post-coital hatred of his sister, but by emphasising the man's hungry wildness (designer stubble, yet, Patrick Wilde sacrifices the charm he must have possessed to be the apple of his dad's eye. Nor is it clear why Tiro wrote the play, since it tells no moral. But it is splendidly acted by the cast of Theatre Manoeuvres, a company previously specialising in German classics, with a performance of radiant intelligence, passion and, where appropriate, humour from Jules Melvin's gamesome Tamar.

ROCK: Shonen Knife, the petite cult band from Japan

Surfeit of sweets on stage

For the last year or so Shonen Knife has been the name to drop in respected rock circles. They have been championed by the messiahs of the grunge revolution, Nirvana, with whom they have toured. Their songs have been recorded by art-rock pioneers Sonic Youth, Big Dipper and many others. They are the band that the big boys come out to see.

The bizarre twist is that the group could not be further removed from the spitting, snarling heavy-rock stereotype. Shonen Knife are a trio of petite Japanese women from Osaka, who sing and play (guitar, bass, drums) with fixed smiles, and end each song with a genteel bow.

This means they do a lot of bowing because their songs do not last very long. As the University of London Unionists rattled through about 18 of them, including encores, in just under an hour. The rapid minimalism of their delivery, their tiny, punk guitar sound and their fondness for melodies which surf across the beat has led to frequent comparisons with the Ramones. And as with the Ramones there is a strange element of ambiguity in how seriously Shonen Knife is intended to be taken.

In Japan they sing and record in Japanese, but over here they perform in English. Their command of the lan-

guage is tenuous, and when drummer Atsuko Yamano took the lead on a version of "Boys" (the song which Ringo used to sing with the Beatles), the results bordered on the farcical. Where they could be deciphered, the lyrics to their own songs were outlandishly odd or surprisingly silly.

Dressed in their kitch, Mary Quant-style uniforms of short black skirts and leopard-skin patterned tights and waistcoats, the women played with serene application while fans among the packed crowd at the front lobbed jelly beans onto the stage.

Shonen Knife may be funny, but they are no joke. Although the current album, *Let's Knife*, is the first to be released in Britain, they have been playing together for ten years, and their show provoked an ecstatic response from this knowing London crowd. Amid the gloomy nihilism that pervades modern popular culture, they offer a rare opportunity to get seriously frivolous.

DAVID SINCLAIR



Jules Melvin as Tamar: a performance of radiant intelligence, passion and, where appropriate, humour

Christmas theatre outings

Theatre Club membership has now passed 20,000. If you would like to join send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, with your name, address and telephone number to: The Theatre Club, P O Box 3, Owen Road, Diss, Norfolk IP22 3HH. For more information telephone 071-387 9673.

Every week we publish special offers for Club Members ranging from the opportunity to meet actors, directors and writers to discount offers at theatres across the country. Membership cards are now being sent out but if you haven't received yours yet, you can still take advantage of this week's offers provided you have sent in your application.

Book now for any of the following events on 071-413 1412, the Theatre Club booking line which is open 24 hours a day, or call the number given during normal box office hours.

Laurel and Hardy by Tom McGrath, Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh (Tues, Dec 1). Members are invited to meet Tom McGrath before his play about the life and work of the popular comedy duo. Tickets £12. Tel 031-229 9697.

Misery by Stephen King, adapted by Simon Moore. Criterion Theatre (Mon, Dec 14).

Sharon Gless and Bill Paterson star in Stephen King's psychological thriller. Mem-

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

Moore, who adapted and directs the play, before the performance in the beautifully refurbished Criterion Theatre. Tickets are £23 which includes a buffet before the show. Tel 071-240 1690.

Gargling With Jelly, Hull Truck Spring Street Theatre, Hull (Dec 1 - Jan 16).

Brian Patten's cult children's book is brought to the stage for

the whole family. Members will receive a free copy of *Gargling With Jelly* - The Poems when they buy a family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) for just £15 and meet the actors after the show. Tel 0482 23638.

Frankie and Tommy by Gary Lyons. Gardner Centre, Brighton (Thurs, Dec 1). Hull Truck presents the story of Tommy Cooper and his long lost double act. Members are offered two tickets for the price of one (normally £8.50 each). Tel 0273 685861.

Heer Ranjha, Gardner Centre, Brighton. (Thurs, Dec 3).

Tara Arts presents the great romantic tragedy. Members are offered two tickets for the price of one (normally £8.50 each). Tel 0273 685861.

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Show	Theatre	Normal price	Club price
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Cats	New London	£28.00	£18.80
Garmen Jones	Old Vic	£30.00	£21.00
Blood Brothers	Phoenix	£28.00	£16.10
Buddy	Victoria Palace	£22.00	£15.40
From A Jack To A King	Ambassadors	£19.50	£13.65
Dancing At Lughnass	Garrick	£19.00	£12.95
Murder By Misadventure	Whitehall	£17.50	£12.25
Travels With My Aunt	Wyndhams	£18.50	£12.95
Trelawney Of The Wells	Comedy	£21.00	£14.70

These discount offers can only be booked through the

TELEVISION REVIEW: new music on the screen

Have faith in your talent

What fun is it to point a camera at someone twiddling dials on a computer? Not a lot, which is why television had a problem with modern music throughout the Sixties and Seventies. Coverage became much more entertaining in the early Eighties, but that was less a tribute to any increase in the music's accessibility than to television's discovery of fancy computerised graphics.

Suddenly, every sonic battering from the magic pen of Stockhausen could be made as palatable as a pop video. You could turn down the sound and just watch the screen explode in hallucinatory colours. Not what the creators had in mind, but no more illogical than listening to cricket on the radio.

The new breed of British composers needs less help from video gimmicks, being almost embarrassingly eager to write approachable music with a readily grasped message. Not a few of them are also intensely and flamboyantly religious, as three BBC 2 pres-

enters for Evelyn, a film of Evelyn Glennie giving the Albert Hall premiere of James MacMillan's virtuosic percussion concerto *Veni, Veni Emmanuel*, which portrays the coming of Christ as nothing less than a violent revolution. But most revealing was *Glimpses of Paradise*, a whizz through the life of John Tavener. He began his composing career as a Highgate schoolboy, went through a flower-powered phase as composer-in-residence to Carnaby Street, and now writes huge, mystical scores, steeped in ancient liturgy.

Geoffrey Haydon's film cleverly intercut the present Tavener, collaborating with a nun on the making of his latest saintly opera, with hilarious scenes from an earlier film about the composer. Here was Tavener entertaining the beautiful children of the 1960s by playing badminton in the dark (that was a radical era, man) or singing operatic extracts in a bizarre falsetto.

about his music and philosophy since suffering a stroke and becoming converted to Orthodoxy. "We have lost the primordial roots of music," he said. "Music should be just one long arch, without renaissance, without change." His music did not contradict him.

The Cry of Iona was an opportunity botched. The first of five BBC "Advent" commissions to composers, it took Philip Wilby to Iona to make a video that might have been called "Apocalypse Soon". The film-makers did not exactly tax their imaginations over the imagery - bombers taking off, Africans starving, oil-polluted seas, currency dealers - and nor did Wilby's military-band music sound too fresh. It isn't sufficient for composers to throw up hands in horror at all the world's miseries, and offer the musical equivalent of "something must be done". They must also tackle William Blake's great unanswered question about the nature of evil: "Did He who made the lamb make thee?"

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EDUCATION

How should culture be imparted in a polyglot society? Two views of the way forward in Britain, at opposite ends of the age-range

The long march of cultural evolution

Every child must learn the key traditions that have made this country what it is, writes David Pascall

The 1988 Education Reform Act provides a vision of a broad and civilising curriculum which gives children the opportunity to grow spiritually, morally, culturally, mentally and physically. Now that the ten subjects of the national curriculum are in place, I wish to highlight the cultural dimension of education and to emphasise the key role of the arts in the school curriculum.

The word culture has three main meanings. One indicates a particular way of life and describes the customs, values and beliefs of a society. The key point is that the culture of a society is defined by its political and social history, its religious and moral beliefs, and its intellectual and artistic traditions. Our modes of thought and feeling are defined by the culture in which we live.

It follows that we must ensure that the curriculum provides young people with the cultural understanding they will need if they are to make informed choices which enrich their own lives and contribute to the development of society.

It may seem simplistic or even dangerous to refer in late-20th-century multi-cultural Britain to any one cultural tradition. Our society is certainly multi-cultural in that throughout our history we have welcomed people with different cultural backgrounds and have been enriched and influenced in many profoundly important ways by their cultures. But this does not mean we live in a society which has no dominant culture. We share a set of values and

traditions which have been developed over the centuries, which benefit from the rich cultural diversity of Britain today and which will be passed on to subsequent generations. An important role of education is to ensure that every child growing up in Britain, irrespective of religion or the community in which he or she lives, is taught about key traditions and influences within this heritage.

The first influence on the child will, of course, be the home. The underlying ethos and culture of the school also sends important messages about values through such

Schools should not be afraid to agree on core values and standards

things as the way the building is decorated, how staff and pupils relate to each other, the material presented at assembly, the variety of plays, concerts and celebrations, and the contribution of the school to the wider community, as well as academic and sporting achievement. Schools should not be afraid to agree on core values and standards of behaviour to which they subscribe and which are communicated to parents.

The second meaning of culture is a general process of intellectual, spiritual and moral development. Michael

Oakeshott argued that the fundamental purpose of education was to equip children to enter what he called "the conversations of mankind", conversations "begun in the primeval forest and extended and made more articulate in the course of centuries". If new generations are to be able to participate in these conversations, they must learn something of the achievements of the scientists, writers, musicians, painters and historians who have gone before.

All subjects of the curriculum have a role to play in spiritual, moral and cultural development. Take science, for example. The pursuit of science rests on the recognition that the natural world is governed by laws which are independent of us and cannot be manipulated. This recognition, this concern for truth and knowledge, lies at the heart of education.

The third sense of culture is the participation in and appreciation of the arts in general and great art in particular. If one objective of the national curriculum is to swing the pendulum away from a narrowly conceived, utilitarian education to one which fulfils the inspiring aims of the Education Reform Act, then we need a convincing rationale for the importance of the arts.

One important answer is that the arts can be a source of great and life-long enjoyment. I am referring here both to the appreciation of art in all its many forms and the opportunity to participate directly in the creative arts. The arts also play a key role in stimulating

In rehearsal: children at Down Lane Junior School in Haringey, practising *The Secret Diary for a School Prom* at the Festival Hall last June

the curiosity and creativity which is fundamental to learning.

The other important reason why the arts must be taught as part of a civilising curriculum is that they can change the way in which we see ourselves and the world. And it is for this reason that the curriculum should introduce pupils to the excitement of great works of art and literature. Such works raise our spiritual, moral and

aesthetic consciousness and many pupils may never experience them outside schools.

A piece of music, a painting, a piece of writing may be a model of technical perfection but if it has nothing to say about values and fails to move or challenge us then it has no soul, no vitality. For most people, the great works which address their own condition are those which have grown within them, within their own

cultural tradition — for these are the works which address the questions and stir the memories of a shared past and point towards a shared future. Great art stems from the artist's engagement with the challenging experiences of life and from a search for meaning in life. Its honesty, its refusal to sacrifice the reality of the particular experience to the norms of conventional expectation or to what is immediate-

ly consoling, provides us with new insights into what it is to be human.

"Try to imagine," Mahler said, thinking of the resounding hymn to the Holy Spirit *Veni, Creator Spiritus* which opens his eighth symphony, "the whole universe beginning to ring and resound. These are no longer human voices, but planets and suns revolving." If we were not moved by feelings of awe and wonder at the beauty of the world we live in, at the power of artists, musicians and writers to manipulate sound, space and language, we would surely be living in an inner cultural desert.

Within a crowded curriculum, I have argued that knowledge and appreciation of great art and our cultural heritage is a priority. I have also emphasised the importance of participation in the creative arts. In developing this case, I do not wish, however, to dismiss the role of contemporary or popular culture. Education does need to take a lead in helping pupils to appreciate culture in its widest sense and in developing their critical faculties so they are able to make choices and apply an intelligent, discriminating attitude to popular culture.

An understanding of why great art transcends its time — why Shakespeare or Mozart has lasted — can help us to be discerning in our response to popular and contemporary culture. Popular culture does, of course, play an important part in our lives. It can be very enjoyable and there is nothing wrong with that. Some of it may well survive our generation. But allowing the curriculum to be dominated by popular and temporary cultural movements will only serve to separate our children from their inheritance which has shaped our society today.

In the teaching of the arts as in every other area of the curriculum, we need to raise our expectations. Children need to be introduced progressively and sensitively to more demanding texts, pictures and pieces of music. All of us can appreciate moments of truth, of beauty, of pain, through our responses to a moment in music, art, literature and painting. These experiences and what we make of them lie at the heart of our humanity. As parents and teachers, we need to develop these moments in the lives of our children and see that they are not wasted.

● The author chairs the National Curriculum Council.

Performance comes to the fore

The Royal Academy, the grandfather of music teaching, has jazzed up its courses

A musical revolution that could bring new standards of excellence in international performances from symphony and opera to pop and rock is taking place in practice rooms and performance halls in the heart of London.

The Royal Academy of Music, founded by the royal charter of King George IV in 1822, has introduced in co-operation with King's College, London, a series of courses that will for the first time combine performance with the academic study of music.

"The most revolutionary change made by a conservatoire this century," the academy says.

Jasper Thorogood, an academician himself and director of the academy's international office, says that for too long some of the best musicians had not considered the academy but had chosen university music departments because their courses ended in degrees, as opposed to diplomas.

The first 100 students on the £7,500-a-year Bachelor of Music in Performance course enrolled last September, with a further 90 signing up this year. Eventually all 500 students will be on the new regime, a master's degree is planned for next September and it is hoped that a doctorate will follow.



Japanese pupils at the Royal Academy: degree courses are more attractive to foreign students than diplomas

The four-year degree course, validated by King's College, offers 14 disciplines concentrating on performance but also offers a strong academic element of rigorous analysis, theory and musicology. All students take a core course but are given extra tuition in their specialisation, whether it is in early English music or rock and pop. Peter Shellard, the academy's director of development, says: "We are offering the best of both worlds and this is the only place where that is possible."

"It has been said that in the past there was a tendency for even the most brilliant performers to leave their brains outside in the Marylebone Road when they entered the academy doors. We want to make musicians think as well

as to play. It sounds simple but it has not happened before."

As well as introducing the degree programme, the academy has broadened its musical approach, which might have found favour with previous students such as Elton John and Annie Lennox. Commercial and electronic suites have been opened to allow students to prepare for work in, for example, films and television.

To complete the new feel at the academy, the Duke's Hall, a 400-seat auditorium equipped to professional standards has just reopened after a £1.75 million refurbishment. In addition, Lynn Harrell, the American cellist, will take up his appointment as full-time principal next September.

Mr Shellard says that Mr Harrell's appointment is one

of the most important the academy has made and is essential to the aim of providing excellence in performance. Mr Harrell will continue to hold the international chair in cello studies and will maintain his world-wide concert programme in the four months when the students are not in residence.

Taken together, the series of changes will also mean that the academy will be able to raise its international profile, especially in the Far East and America, where in particular the lack of a degree course has put off some students. Mr Shellard says that the academy has deliberately reduced the number of students from about 700 some years ago to the present 500 in order to improve standards.

Mr Thorogood has no doubt that the changes, which did meet with some resistance, are for the best: "We were short-changing our students. They are all very robust but this place was too comfortable and cosy. We were providing diploma courses that were adequate for school teachers alongside a four-year performance course."

Sir David Lumsden, the retiring principal, has been anxious to broaden the cultural mix and to improve the academy's international standing, organising exchanges, foreign tours, overseas recruiting and the appointment of international performers such as Mr Harrell and Anne-Sophie Mutter, the violinist, as visiting professors. Musicians from the Royal

Academy have been invited to play at the celebrations to mark the opening of Japan's "Science City" in Kansai and a tour of the country by the academy's chamber orchestra is scheduled for spring 1994. A similar tour of Korea last year did much to stimulate interest. "Recruitment is certainly helped when people can see the academy in action," Mr Thorogood says.

The academy first began recruiting in Japan five years ago and now has 30 Japanese students. Auditions were held in Tokyo earlier this month for 26 candidates wishing to enter the academy next September, of whom 22 were offered places. Out of a total 92 applicants auditioned in Taiwan, Japan and Korea this year, 51 were successful.

The number of home students has been limited to 400 with about 100 coming from 40 other countries. Mr Thorogood reckons this number could rise by a further 20 or 30 students. All students enter the academy by auditions held by two or three professors; those overseas can attend one of a number of centres, in Seoul, Taipei, Tokyo, Cincinnati, Philadelphia and at the University of California. Tape recordings are accepted only rarely where a professor has personal knowledge of the candidate.

"We do not want anyone in by the back door," Mr Thorogood says. "We want bright-eyed and thinking people on the courses here and we want to see the whole person. High-class musical talent comes first, and we do have substantial scholarship funds, but if they come from countries that can afford the fees then that is a bonus."

DAVID TYTLER

Getting the right result in the examination tables

What on earth should parents think, caught in the crossfire of political claims and allegations which accompanied the government's publication of GCSE and A-level results?

Are they the lucky recipients, as the government proudly proclaims, of an information revolution, or the victims of a crude, incomplete, misleading exercise?

Forget the politicians' polemics and the embarrassing glitches. The real question is where do parents and teachers stand now that the dust from the initial launch has subsided, if not completely settled?

One thing is certain. Publishing information about examination results is here to stay. Parents want more information, and they will

insist on having it. The question now is how we improve the method, analysis and presentation so that parents, on the one hand, are not misled and, on the other hand, schools with particular challenges are not to be unfairly pilloried.

The government must make credible changes. Unless it does, it will be vulnerable to the jibe that the results, as they were published this month, should carry a health warning for parents.

Labour, in turn, must be seen to take part in the real debate. If the main opposition party is now prepared in principle to accept a system of annual publication of results, it must explain what modifications it would make if it were in government.

VIEWPOINT

Peter Smith

Teachers, meanwhile, must convince parents that they are not totally opposed to the publication of information but totally committed to improving the tables.

The improvement cannot be a quick fix. But even to say so is likely to provoke the accusation that the ever-qualifying, ever-pedantic, ever-qualifying, and time-wasting education establishment is seeking to do a Canute on the irreversible tide of public service consumerism. That is not the case. The decision to publish in any form was a

government quick fix to make one of its many charters look attractive. Now the really important job of making the exercise of genuine value to parents must begin.

At the heart of that process must be resolving the potentially misleading publication of raw examination data with the teaching profession's emphasis upon value-added statistics, which many parents would find hopelessly confusing. It will be a complete waste of time to present raw and value-added statistics in parallel. The confusion of Pellon will be piled on the muddle of Ossa.

For the government, there is a further dilemma. How will parents understand testing and assessment results published from year to year, which reflect not merely the perfor-

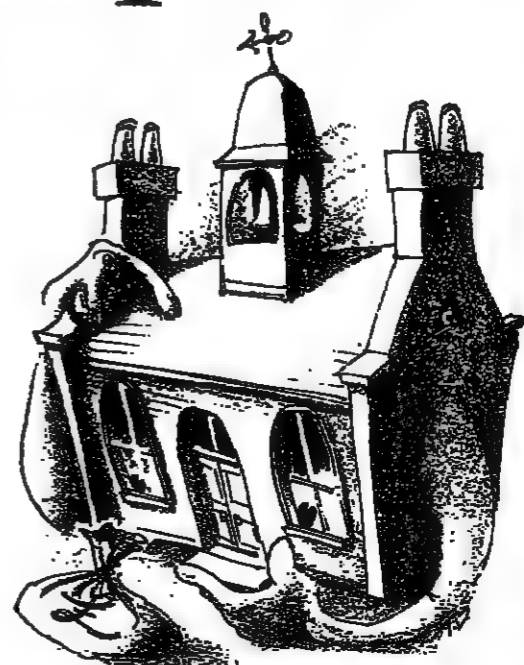
mance of children and schools, but shifting government decisions about the nature and content of the national curriculum itself?

What will happen in 1994, when the GCSE format changes? Then, the present GCSE grades A to G become levels ten to four. In some grades, there will be no direct correlation between the old and new systems.

Parents are entitled to information about the schools their children attend, whether publicly funded or private. What is now needed is a cool, measured debate to judge how best to provide it. That will take time, but it would be time well spent.

● The author is general secretary of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association.

How to opt out



In this Friday's Times Educational Supplement, the Governors' Guide tells you all you need to know, and do, if you want to take your school out of local authority control

TES
GOVERNORS' GUIDE

PART 8
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Law Report November 30 1992 House of Lords

Courts can use Hansard to construe ambiguous or obscure statutes

Pepper (Inspector of Taxes) v Hart and Others

Before Lord MacKay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Griffiths, Lord Auld, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Browne-Wilkinson

[Speeches November 26]

As an aid to construing legislation which was ambiguous or obscure or the literal meaning of which led to absurdity, the courts could refer to reports of debates or proceedings in Parliament.

But such reference should only be permitted if it disclosed the mischief aimed at or the legislative intention lying behind the ambiguous or obscure words.

The use of Hansard in such circumstances would not impair or curtail the freedom of Parliamentary debate and would not be an infringement of article 9 of the Bill of Rights 1689.

It was thus permissible to refer to the clear statements of legislative intent made in parliamentary proceedings for the purpose of construing the ambiguous provisions for taxing benefits of directors and higher-paid employees contained in section 63 of the Finance Act 1976.

So construed the taxable benefits of staff at fee-paying schools provided with a concessionary lease for their children's education was to be quantified on the basis of the marginal costs to the employer.

Following a hearing in July 1991 and a further hearing before a committee of seven Lords of Appeal, the House of Lords held, Lord MacKay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Griffiths, Lord Auld, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Browne-Wilkinson.

Mr. Justice Chadwick, in the majority, held that the concessionary lease was to be quantified on the basis of the marginal costs to the employer. The majority was composed of Lord MacKay of Clashfern, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Griffiths, Lord Auld, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Browne-Wilkinson.

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affirming the judgment of Mr Justice Vinelott (The Times December 8, 1989; [1990] 1 WLR 204) who had held that section 63 of the 1976 Act required the amount of the taxable benefit to be the difference between the amount paid under the scheme and a proper rateable proportion of the general running expenses of the school.

Their Lordships further held, Lord MacKay and Lord Griffiths dissenting, that without having recourse to Hansard, the Court of Appeal had been right to accept the Crown's case on statutory construction and to dismiss the appeal.

The taxpayers' sons were educated at the college at concessionary fees amounting to one-fifth of those payable for other pupils. The college had a discretion to withdraw the scheme at any time. During the years under appeal it had sufficient surplus capacity to take away other prospective pupils.

The taxpayers did not contest that for the purposes of Schedule E liability they had received benefits liable to be treated as emoluments of their employment under section 61(1) of the 1976 Act. They contended, however, that under section 63(1) of that Act the "cash equivalent" of the benefit was to be determined by taking into account solely the additional cost to the college of providing those boys with such items as food, laundry and stationery and disregarding the costs to the college of its overhead expenses.

A special commissioner allowed the taxpayers' appeals against Schedule E assessments raised on them for years between 1983 and 1986, concluding that their co-fifth payments had made good the cost of providing the benefits received.

Section 63 of the 1976 Act provides: "(1) The cash equivalent of any benefit chargeable to tax under section 61 above is an amount equal to the cost of the benefit, less so much (if any) of it as is made good by the employee...."

"(2) ... the cost of a benefit is the amount of any expense incurred in or in connection with its provision, and ... includes a proper proportion of any expense relating partly to the benefit and partly to other matters."

The statutory provisions are now in sections 154 and 156 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

At the July 1991 hearing, Mr Stephen Oliver, QC and Mr Jeremy Woolf for the taxpayers; Mr Alan Moses, QC and Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown.

At the further hearing, Mr Anthony Lester, QC, Mr Jeremy Woolf and Mr Clive Sheldon for the taxpayers; Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, Attorney-General, Mr Alan Moses, QC, Mr Timothy Brennan and Mr Rabinder Singh for the Crown.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON said that the underlying subject matter of the appeals was the correct basis for valuing benefits in kind. But two questions of much wider importance were raised.

First, whether in construing ambiguous or obscure statutory provisions the historic rule that the courts must not look at the parliamentary history of legislation or Hansard for the purpose of construing such legislation, should be relaxed.

Second, if reference to such materials would otherwise be appropriate, would it contravene article 9 of the Bill of Rights 1689 or parliamentary privilege so as to do so?

The case had originally been argued without reference to any parliamentary proceedings. But by the conclusion of the first hearing it was clear that examination of the proceedings in Parliament in 1976 which led to the enactment of sections 61 and 63 might give a clear indication which of the parties' contentions represented the

benefit, less so much (if any) of it as is made good by the employee....

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intention of Parliament in using the statutory words. Thus the parties had been invited to present the further argument.

Under the present law there was a general rule that references to parliamentary material as an aid to statutory construction was not permissible. The Attorney-General submitted that that rule had a sound constitutional and practical basis.

If, it was said, statements by ministers as to the intent or effect of an Act were allowed to prevail, that would contravene the constitutional rule that Parliament was "sovereign only in respect of what it expresses by the words used in the legislation it has passed" per Lord MacKay of Clashfern in *Blackburn v British Airports Authority Ltd* [1975] AC 591, 615B.

It was, he contended for the courts alone to construe such legislation. But, as a matter of law, there were good reasons for making a limited modification to the existing rule, subject to strict safeguards, under there were constitutional or practical reasons which outweighed them.

Subject to the questions of the privileges of the House of Commons, reference to parliamentary material should be permitted as an aid to the construction of legislation which was ambiguous or obscure or the literal meaning of which led to an absurdity.

Even in such cases, references in court to parliamentary material should only be permitted where such material clearly disclosed the mischief aimed at or the legislative intention lying behind the ambiguous or obscure words.

In the case of statements made in Parliament, as at present advised, any statement other than that of the minister or other promoter of a Bill would be unlikely to meet those criteria.

Stantle law consisted of the words that Parliament had enacted. It was for the courts to construe those words and in so doing to give effect to the intention of Parliament in using them.

In many cases references to parliamentary materials would not throw any light on the matter. But in a few cases it might emerge that the very question was considered by Parliament in passing the legislation. Why in such cases should the courts blind themselves to a clear indication of what Parliament intended in using those words? Why should not Parliament's true intention be enforced rather than thwarted?

Was there any constitutional objection to a relaxation of the rule? The Attorney-General urged that the use of such material would infringe article 9 of the Bill of Rights 1689, which was giving effect to what had been said and done there.

Article 9 was a provision of the highest constitutional importance and was not to be narrowly construed. But it had been enacted to ensure that members of Parliament were not subjected to any penalty for what they said or did in the House of Commons or in the House of Lords.

Relaxation of the rule would not involve the courts in criticising what was said in Parliament. Far from questioning the independence of Parliament and the debates, the courts would be giving effect to what had been said and done there.

Section 63 of the 1976 Act was ambiguous or obscure. Repeated assurances by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury that the provision was intended to ensure that members of Parliament were not subjected to any penalty for what they said or did in the House of Commons or in the House of Lords.

The 1976 Finance Bill amounted to a clear statement by the responsible minister that the provision was intended to ensure that members of Parliament were not subjected to any penalty for what they said or did in the House of Commons or in the House of Lords.

The intention was to assess in-house benefits, and particularly concessionary education for teachers' children, on the marginal cost to the employer and not on the average cost. The words of section 63 were capable of bearing that meaning and that was the meaning they should be given.

If reference to Hansard was not permissible then, for the reasons given by the Court of Appeal, the Revenue's submissions as to section 63 would be correct.

As a matter of pure law in the instant case, Hansard should be looked at and effect given to the parliamentary intention disclosed.

The Attorney-General, at the start of the further hearing, had indicated that to do so might be infringing the privileges of the House of Commons. But he had not identified or specified the nature of any privilege extending beyond that provided by the Bill of Rights.

In the absence of a claim to a defined privilege as to the validity of which a determination could be made, it would not be right to withhold from the taxpayers a decision to which, in law, there were entitled.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said that the benefit received by the taxpayers was the placing of their children in surplus places at the college as a matter of discretion the college agreed to do so.

Regarded in that light the benefit could not be held to include the cost incurred, in any event, in providing education to fee-paying pupils at the school who were there as a right in return for the fees paid in respect of them. The expenses incurred in provision of places for fee-paying pupils were wholly incurred in order to provide those places.

The benefit conferred on the taxpayers was one that followed only when it was determined that there were surplus places.

Looking at the matter from the point of view of expense incurred, no expense could be regarded as having been incurred as a result of the decision to provide that benefit to the taxpayers. For those reasons the appeals should be allowed.

But the appeal raised a wider issue as to the extent to which reference could properly be made before a court of law to proceedings in Parliament recorded in Hansard. Such use could not possibly be thought to infringe article 9 of the Bill of Rights.

But, if such use was to be permitted, as a practical objection in almost every case of statutory construction the parties' legal advisers would have to study Hansard to see whether or not there was any help to be gained from it. That would involve the possibility of an immense increase in the cost of litigation in such cases.

The costs of litigation were a subject of general public concern and his Lordship said that he would not wish to be a party to changing a well established rule which could have substantial effect in increasing those costs.

The objection in principle to relaxing the rule were not strong and were it not for that practical consideration, agreed to be one of real substance, it should no longer be adhered to.

However the proposed exception was so extensive that it could not be supported in the present state of knowledge of its practical results.

LORD GRIFITHS said that he would have construed section 63 in favour of the taxpayers without recourse to Hansard.

But, agreeing with Lord Browne-Wilkinson, he had long thought that the time had come to change the self-imposed judicial rule that forbade any reference to the legislative history of an enactment as an aid to its interpretation.

LORD KEITH, LORD BRIDGE, LORD AULD and LORD OLIVER agreed with Lord Browne-Wilkinson.

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Sell-offs will put a head on Bass profit

IN A WEEK that heralds the start of the major brewers' reporting season, Bass, the brewing, hotels and leisure group chaired by Ian Prosser, should report sharply higher annual profits.

Gains from its pub sell-off programme and lower finance charges, after last year's rights issue, should help final pre-tax profits, due on Wednesday, to rise to £530 million (£430 million), according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Market forecasts range from £495 million to £543 million. A dividend of 19.2p (17.8p) is predicted.

Analysts forecast relatively flat trading profits, with gains in brewing, hotels, leisure and soft drinks offset by a drop of about a quarter in pub profits, after the group's disposal of around 1,500 pubs during the year.

Cost-cutting should help brewing profits, which account for about a third of group profits, to a strong advance. Bass, which is Britain's biggest brewer, should have outperformed a declining beer market and gained market share.

The Holiday Inns hotels division should earn higher profits as it outperforms a sluggish hotel industry and benefits from new franchise hotel rooms coming on stream. Leisure profits should be led higher by Gala bingo, while Britvic, the soft drinks company, which is 45 per cent owned by Bass, will have benefited from rationalisation and heavy expenditure on marketing.

TODAY

Scottish Power, the larger of the vertically integrated Scottish power companies, is expected to give shareholders a healthy first-half dividend rise of about 10 per cent, to 3.72p. County NatWest predicts that pre-tax profits will climb to £90 million (£82 million). Market forecasts range from £88 million to £95 million.

Racal Electronics and Chubb Security, recently demerged, are expected to report interim pre-tax profits of £22 million and £23 million respectively, according to Credit Lyonnais Laing. Profits



Cheers: led by Philip Bowman, left, the finance director, and chairman Ian Prosser, Bass has sold 1,500 pubs

growth will reflect the benefits of substantial cost-cutting.

Interim: Associated Nursing Services, Borthwick, Chubb Security, Crown Eyeglasses, East Surrey Holdings, European Coltur, Greene King, Philip Harris Holdings, Hoskins Brewery, J.J. Group, Kenwood Appliances, Leigh Interests, Marydown Wine, Neader Group (CS), Rasal Electronics, Scottish Power, Scott Poldford, Specialises, Verson International, Viscac Group, SW Wood Group.
Finals: EFM Income Trust, Fidelity Japan OTC, Millwall Holdings, Neader (CS), Regina.
Economic statistics: Monetary statistics, including bank and building society balance sheets (October), bill turnover statistics (October), sterling commercial paper (October), money market statistics (October), London sterling certificates of deposit (October).

TOMORROW

Allied-Lyons, the food and drinks group that on Friday

effectively received the green light for its proposed tie-up with Carlsberg, the Danish brewer, is set to report relatively flat first-half profits.

A resilient performance from the wines and spirits division should offset weaknesses elsewhere. Graeme Eadie, at County NatWest, expects interim pre-tax profits of £284 million (£289 million). Market forecasts range from £272 million to £300 million. A half-year dividend of between 7p and 7.3p is predicted, against 6.65p previously.

Allied's wines and spirits division, which accounts for about half of profits and boasts brands such as Ballantine's whisky, Courvoisier cognac and Beefeater gin, should show a small rise, helped by gains in France and Spain, as well as a solid American result.

The Japanese market, however, will have remained difficult and the British and duty-free markets are likely to have been weak.

The brewing division will see relatively flat profits with beer volumes ahead of the overall British market, helped by supply agreements.

Robert Fowlds, at Kleinwort Benson, expects final pre-tax profits at MEPC, the property group, to decline to £115 million (£143 million), with London values falling and interest costs up. A net asset value of 490p (608p) a share is predicted, with an unchanged dividend of 20p.

Interim: Allied Colloids, Allied-Lyons, Andrew Sykes, Feedback, London Electricity, Lyne Irish Holdings, Norweb, Orlime International, Sterling Publishing, Final: Bass, Huntingdon International, Leeds Group, MEPC, Prospect Industries, Transiger House.

WEDNESDAY

Keith Sykes, at Credit Lyonnais Laing, expects GEC, the electronics to engineering giant headed by Lord Weinstock, to report interim pre-tax profits of £360 million, compared with £346 million last time.

Market forecasts range between £350 million and £360 million. Analysts will pay close attention to what GEC has to say about the position of its order books.

Interim: Alfa, Cape, Cellvina, Christian Salvessen, Enkine House, GEC, Granada, Harrison Industries, London & Overseas, Pomer Chadburn, Rowlandson Securities, Tops Estates, Yorkshire Water. Final: M & G Group.

Economic statistics: Overseas travel and tourism (September), UK official reserves (November), advance energy statistics (October).

THURSDAY

Full-year profits at Grand Metropolitan, the food and drinks giant, will be held back by depressed margins and profits at Pillsbury, the American food operation, mainly because of weak consumer demand and pricing pressure, after bumper harvests of vegetable crops. Analysts expect pre-tax profits of between £920 million and £950 million, against £950 million last time. IDV, the drinks division which generates about half of group profits, should see profits up, led by growth in Spain.

Final pre-tax profits at Hanson, the industrial conglomerate, are expected to have declined to £1.05 billion (£1.32 billion), according to Kleinwort Benson.

Recession, competition, poor summer weather and the severe downturn in trading being experienced by the photoprocessing operation is likely to result in lower pre-tax profits at London International Group. County NatWest expects £15 million, before exceptional items, in the half year to September 30. Reported profits, distorted by exceptional items, should be ahead by 111 per cent. Market forecasts range from £14.5 million to £15.5 million.

Interim pre-tax profits at Scottish Hydro-Electric, the smaller of the Scottish power companies, should rise 11 per cent to £30 million.

Interim: Eastern Electricity, Johnson Matthey, James Latham, London International, Oronite Group, Scapa Group, Scottish Hydro-Electric, Severn Trent, Shanks & McEwen, Smith New Court, Sytome, Test Holdings.

Finals: Grand Metropolitan, Hanson, Radio Group, Murray Enterprise, Royal Bank of Scotland. Economic statistics: Details of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators, new earnings survey 1992 part F: distribution of hours; analysis of earnings and hours for part-time women employees.

FRIDAY

Interim: VTech Holdings. Final: Dobson Park Industries, Wolverhampton & Dudley. Economic statistics: Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (October - second estimate), housing starts and completions (October).

PHILIP PANGALOS

Greece plans to sell 35% telecom stake to foreign company

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

GREECE'S ambitious privatisation programme has taken a step forward with the government confirming plans to sell off 49 per cent of the state telecommunications business.

It will retain 51 per cent of the Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation (OTE), and sell 35 per cent to a foreign telephone company and 14 per cent to OTE's 27,900 staff and the public.

The government, which is being advised by NM Rothschild, the merchant bank that sold British Gas to Sid, has said it is determined to liberalise the market. But this is the boldest move so far, as it attempts to follow Britain's "popular capitalism" path.

The foreign buyer will manage the whole of OTE. Investing \$7-\$10 billion in the next 10 years. This is how much OTE needs to compete with other European telecommunications companies, said Stephanos Manos, Greece's national economy minister.

OTE's is valued at about \$4.5 billion, with some ana-

lysts suggesting the price for the 35 per cent stake will be \$1.2-\$1.5 billion. OTE made a \$250 million profit in 1991 and expects more this year.

International companies must register interest by December 11. Mr Manos said: "Under state management, OTE has spent millions in modernisation, but our phones are still a mess." The deal is expected to be finalised by next spring.

Mr Manos did not specify a price for the 35 per cent stake, but said only a big international company could afford the necessary investment. "There are about 30 telecommunications companies around the world capable of such an investment and 20 have already been in touch," he added.

Potential investors may include American Telephone and Telegraph, France Telecom, British Telecommunications, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp and Stet, the Italian state telephone company.

Answers from page 40

MARIE

(b) Wozzeck's mistress in Berg's opera. She is seduced by the Drum Major, who boasts of his success, and beats Wozzeck when he refuses to drink with him. Wozzeck stabs Marie. Their child is playing with his hobby-horse, and does not understand when the other children tell him his mother is dead. V. heart-rending ending.

MINNIE

(c) The owner of the Pelika saloon in *La Fanciulla del West* by Puccini. Set in California in the days of the Gold Rush, the opera tells of the love of Minnie for Dick Johnson, who is really a notorious bandit.

BLONDE

(a) The English maid of Constantine, the Spanish lady and heroine of Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, the abduction from the Seraglio, which sounds better in German. The Pasha is not for Constantine, as his servant Osmia is for Blonde. Osmia reminds Blonde that she is a slave, but she retorts that she is a free-born English woman, and will not be cowed by threats.

FLORENCE PIKE

(b) The housekeeper of Lady Billow, doyenne of local society, in Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring*. The action takes place in Loxford, supposed to be a small market town in east Suffolk, and concerns the decision to choose Albert as king of the May, "to ensure virtue has its own reward".

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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Liverpool Bay gas project stalled by energy review

By Ross Tremain, Industrial Correspondent

A £1.5 billion project to develop oil and gas reserves in Liverpool Bay has been stalled by the government's review of energy policy.

Almost 300 workers have been laid off by the Hamilton group, a consortium that has spent more than £60 million on exploration and pre-production activity. The group says the project would create more than 1,000 construction jobs for three years, and many more among suppliers.

The economic viability of the scheme to exploit four adjacent oil and gas reserves hinges upon an agreement to sell gas from the field to fuel a power station to be constructed at Connaught Quay, Deeside, by PowerGen, the generating company.

But the developers fear the special merits of their project have been overlooked by Tim Eggart, the energy minister, who has declined to grant any new consents for gas-fired power stations pending the outcome of the energy review.

The Liverpool Bay reserves contain more than 1 billion cu ft of gas and 200 million barrels of oil. Because the reserves are divided into four offshore fields, the only economic way to exploit them is via a common pipeline system.

Liverpool Bay gas contains high levels of nitrogen and sulphur, making it unsuitable for domestic use. But it can be burnt by industrial or power generation companies in large plants where the impurities can be properly dealt with.

To that end, the Hamilton group, made up of three

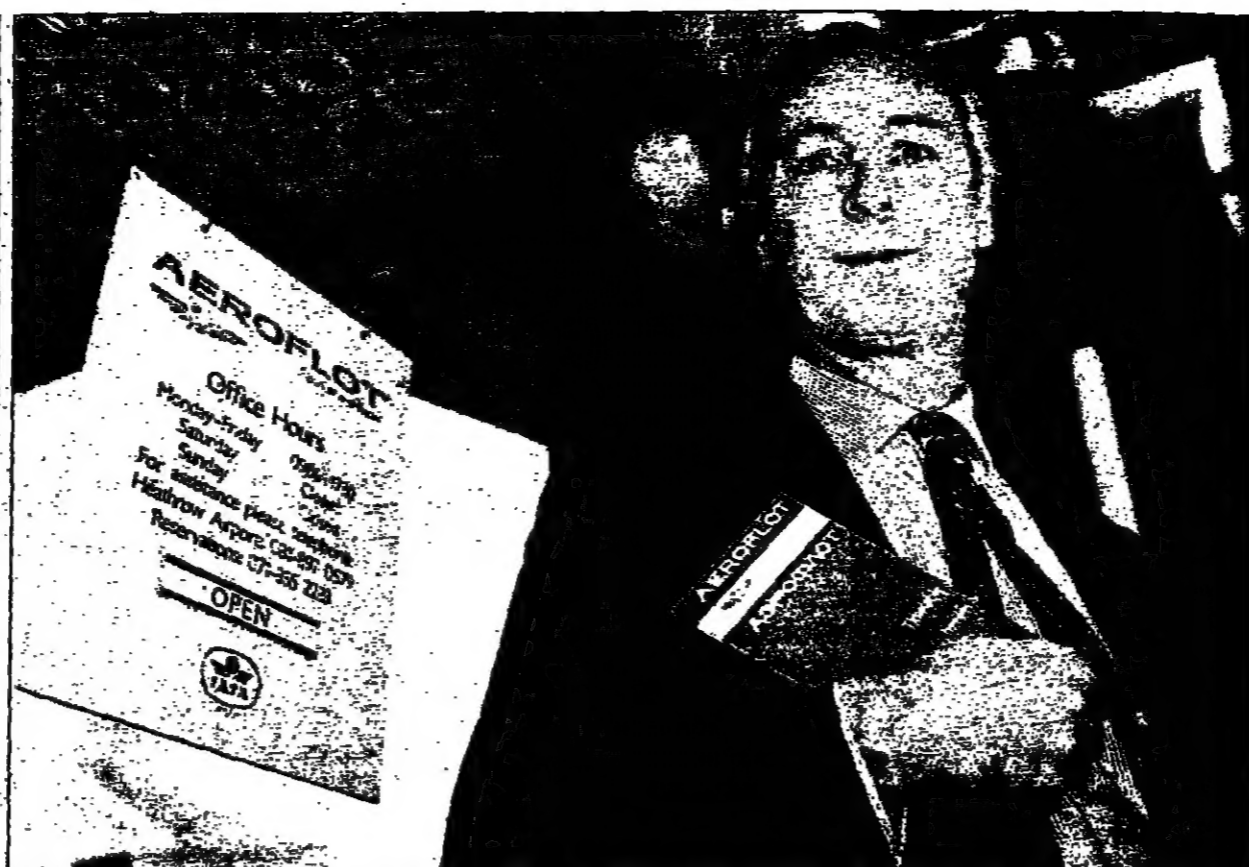
independent oil companies, Hamilton, Lando and Monument, accepted a bid by PowerGen to buy the gas and set about developing the field. Ministers approved the sale of the gas for power generation.

The generating company applied in July 1991 for consent to build a 1,360 megawatt, high-efficiency combined cycle gas turbine power plant at Connaught Quay. The plant would be on the site of a disused power station, and already has connections to the national grid. Moreover, it is little more than 20 miles from the proposed terminal where the gas would come ashore at Point of Air.

A colliery at Point of Air is among 31 earmarked for closure by British Coal. Tony Craven Walker, the chief executive of Monument Oil and Gas, said: "We could give jobs to many of those losing their jobs at the mine. These are skilled men, and understand the energy industry."

But no consent has yet been received to build the power station, nor has the inspectors' report from the public enquiry into the gas terminal at Point of Air been made public. Pressure is growing for the government to enable some extra mines to be retained by halting construction of gas-fired power plants.

Building consent has already been granted for 21 plants, with a total generating capacity of 12,660 megawatts. Latest predictions are that only 8,000 megawatts of that capacity is likely to be built.



Taking flight: Christopher Powell-Smith, 56, has taken over as the new senior partner of McKenna & Co, the British solicitor appointed to advise on the privatisation of Aeroflot, the

world's largest airline. McKenna has been asked to provide advice on the sale of Aeroflot International, which runs flights from the former Soviet Union to more than 100 countries.

McKenna will also advise on a regulatory body to control agreements on flights from and between the former member republics of the Soviet Union. *Diary, page 38*

China asks South Korean firm to build \$8bn road

By Colin Naeubrough

CHINA has invited Pohang Iron and Steel Company (Pocor), the South Korean industrial group, to play a leading part in the construction of an \$8 billion express highway to link Peking and Hong Kong, a distance of 1,500 miles.

Pocor, the world's third-biggest steelmaker, has been asked by Shougang Corporation, the Chinese state steel group, to start work on the project next year with a view to completion before Britain hands back Hong Kong to China in 1997.

Park Tae-joon, the Pocor chairman, flew to Peking on Saturday to open negotiations with the Chinese, the company disclosed.

The invitation to Pocor to lead the huge civil engineering project comes only months after Peking and Seoul finally ended their post-war confrontation by establishing full diplomatic relations.

As usual, trade ties have moved faster than diplomacy and South Korean firms have

already invested about \$300 million in China.

The Korea Times wrote yesterday that the Chinese authorities have also approached other South Korean companies, including Dong Ah Construction, to take part in the highway scheme.

The newspaper also said that Mr Park had been chosen as special adviser to Shougang on the construction of a cold-rolled steel mill to be modelled on a South Korean works.

The Chinese highway deal should help South Korea further improve its balance of payments position. The current account has been in surplus for the past three months, but still shows a \$4.69 billion cumulative deficit for the first ten months of 1992.

The swift return of the improvement in Peking's relations with South Korea appears to be part of a wider trade offensive by China. Xie Jianqun, vice-chairman of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, said Peking wants to expand direct trade ties with South Africa. He made clear that Peking now regarded South Africa as the most attractive market in Africa and an important source of mining and metallurgical technology.

Barbara Franklin, the American commerce secretary, is to visit China in the middle of the month to try to assuage Chinese fears that the Clinton administration could put further strain on Washington's relationship with Peking. America is China's biggest western trading partner, despite the souring of political ties over human rights.

In Peking, Mrs Franklin will take part in the first general meeting for three years of the Sino-American joint committee on commerce and trade.

Leasing firms await boost from Autumn Statement

By Graham Seaburn, Financial Editor

THE leasing industry is planning for a big boost in business as a result of initiatives in the Autumn Statement. These aim to permit the public sector to lease more capital goods and to encourage joint ventures between the private and public sectors to bring forward infrastructure projects.

Tony Mallin, deputy chairman of the Finance and Leasing Association, said: "We have been pressing for a change in the rules for the past year because we see this as one way in which we can play our part in getting the country out of recession." He said the industry had enough capacity to finance extra public sector spending of

£500 million to £1 billion a year. The continuing fall in private capital spending is shown by the results of the FIA, whose members finance about 30 per cent of business capital formation. Third quarter overall new business leasing fell 8 per cent to £3.2 billion and lease business 15 per cent.

By contrast, consumer finance rose 11 per cent to £2.8 billion, leaving total leasing little changed from the second quarter. The burst in consumer finance may mean little because it was mainly due to increased car loans for August car registrations. More car manufacturers are also offering buyback options. There was some recovery in high street credit but lending linked to housing fell further.

Mr Mallin said the scope for leasing

by the public sector, to keep down the borrowing requirement, would depend on the bill to enact the Autumn Statement proposals. Key issues include whether capital costs of goods acquired via leasing will be counted within existing cash limits, how much risk lessors will be expected to take to qualify under the new rules and whether the relaxation will be extended to areas such as health authorities.

The industry sees its main opportunity in the same sort of capital goods that it finances for the public sector, such as the new trains for British Rail specifically permitted by the Chancellor. Mr Mallin said leasing is particularly suited to help the National Health Service buy expensive equipment that would enable savings on operating

costs. About a fifth of lease finance is for items worth more than £20 million, including offices and factories that may have a lease term of 25 years. The industry is already building expertise, and a rapidly expanding business, financing infrastructure projects for the privatised water industry, where leasing offers tax advantages. In principle, projects of £100 million or more could be financed by leasing.

The private sector element would have to be covered by direct revenue such as tolls. Government would have to inject capital on behalf of taxpayers to the extent that it was justified by non-cash benefits. Competition by tender would encourage private sector promoters to provide finance covering the largest practical proportion of a project.

Equity peak does not signal recovery

The pound is not yet out of trouble, despite its sharp fall since Black Wednesday. The economy remains weak, interest rates will have to fall further and the budget and current account deficits are rising to unsustainable levels.

Although the stock market hit a record peak on Friday, this does not signal recovery. As Wall Street has shown over the past few years, in the midst of a deep recession, rising stock prices do not guarantee recovery. They are a symptom of falling rates.

Economic prospects remain poor. Although there have been signs of life, such as retail sales data, it is still premature to talk of recovery. Britain remains mired in recession; there is too much debt and too little confidence. Real interest rates are still too high for people and companies to service debt.

Meanwhile, those people with the ability to spend still lack the confidence to do so,

largely because of poor employment prospects. Any increase in spending before Christmas may thus prove temporary, particularly as the corporate sector continues to restrict. Expect stocks to fall, investment to decline and unemployment to rise to 3.4 million by the end of next year.

Falling house prices will also reduce the personal sector's wealth-income ratio, resulting in a higher savings ratio and limiting spending.

This suggests still lower base rates are required to guarantee recovery. Naturally, the authorities will be cautious, waiting to assess the impact of monetary easing on spending. The futures market is pointing to 6 per cent rates by the summer, but rates could reach that sooner and decline further. The dollar fell in the past year because of lower rates and weak growth, despite appearing favourable on purchasing power parity. The same is likely to happen to sterling, even against European currencies and certainly against the dollar.

The danger for sterling, though, is not just that recovery may be delayed but that even if demand picks up next year, the economy will still be in difficulty. It will not enter a period of sustained growth but will experience weak, imbalanced growth, with either the current account or Budget deficit

There is too much debt and too little confidence

eroding and certainly against the dollar. The danger for sterling, though, is not just that recovery may be delayed but that even if demand picks up next year, the economy will still be in difficulty. It will not enter a period of sustained growth but will experience weak, imbalanced growth, with either the current account or Budget deficit eroding and certainly against the dollar. The danger for sterling, though, is not just that recovery may be delayed but that even if demand picks up next year, the economy will still be in difficulty. It will not enter a period of sustained growth but will experience weak, imbalanced growth, with either the current account or Budget deficit eroding and certainly against the dollar.

sterling's fall may not be fully evident. Exporters may try to rebuild margins squeezed during sterling's ERM days. This factor, and recession on the Continent, will limit export growth. Also, the inflationary impact of sterling's fall may be limited next year as importers' margins are squeezed.

The budget deficit, meanwhile, needs to be financed through higher savings from the private sector, or the overseas sector. This points to downward pressure on sterling, higher yields, or both.

International investors remain wary of gilts. Either sterling needs to fall to such an attractive level that international investors want to buy gilts, or gilt yields must rise to offer a sizeable premium over harder-currency European markets, offsetting supply and exchange-rate risk.

Even if the deficit is financed through domestic sources, long yields have to remain high. Rates will have to remain attractive to increase in-

surance and pension fund holdings of gilts. Even if the funding rule is changed, allowing banks and building societies to fund the deficit, this will either ration the amount banks lend to the private sector, or force banks' deposit rates to become more competitive as they raise funds to lend to the government. Higher rates will clearly crowd out other lending, limiting recovery.

While it may appear more desirable to allow sterling to fall, further declines could add to longer-term inflation worries, and this could push up yields anyway. This points to a much steeper yield curve, as seen in the US this year. Short-dated gilts will remain attractive, as the economy's weakness will contain inflationary pressures in 1993, allowing scope for interest rates to fall. But longer-dated yields will have to rise, as the Budget deficit will be difficult to finance.

GERARD LYONS
DKB International

Japanese plan to move upstream jobs to Asean

FROM AP IN MANILA

JAPANESE companies are planning to relocate main production facilities from Japan to Southeast Asian countries, a Japanese business leader said.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Nishio Iwai Corporation, said, a recent survey showed Japanese firms were willing to move from merely setting up assembly plants in Asia to relocating upstream facilities as they have in America and Europe.

Mr Hayami, who is head of the Japan Committee for Economic Development, a corporate group, said Japanese business leaders "realize we

have to go to a higher stage of co-operation" with members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean), which have the world's highest economic growth rates.

Mr Hayami indicated this will entail more direct foreign investment in manufacturing intermediate goods, such as parts and components for automobiles and electrical appliances, as well as capital goods.

Asean consists of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Mr Hayami was speaking at the end of the annual Asean-Japan business meeting in Manila.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5105 (-0.0097)
German mark 2.4186 (-0.0038)
Exchange Index 78.4 (same)

Bank of England official close (Apr)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2077.5 (+41.6)
FT-SE 100 2760.1 (+27.7)
New York Dow Jones 3282.20 (+54.84)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 17470.61 (+437.01)

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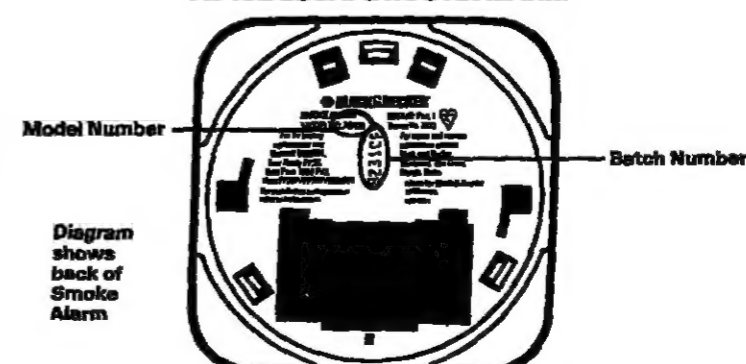
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COMMENT

Putting more bite into Cadbury

Sir Adrian Cadbury's committee, examining the money side of corporate governance, has come under some heavy pressure from industry since it issued its interim report in the summer. Some top businessmen fear its proposals might turn their non-executive directors into boardroom referees, policemen or even spies for institutional shareholders. Paranoia is abroad, breeding suspicion that directors who are not wholly "one of us" would become "one of them" and could not be trusted as part of a unitary board team. This seems somewhat theoretical. The non-executives would be the same people as they are today, behaving in the boardroom according to individual character more than formal relationships.

The fear remains, exposing the central weakness of the initial Cadbury proposals. They had little hope of working unless boardroom roles do change in practice. Any significant watering down of the enhanced role planned for non-executives, in the committee's final report, would be viewed with dismay elsewhere. The interim proposals were a compromise solution to the perceived lack of accountability of strong-willed entrepreneurs. They avoided two-tier boards, which are anathema to British business, and did not require legislation, which the government does not want.

Last week's green paper from the Auditing Practices Board underlined the frailty of the Cadbury compromise. Coming from the opposite direction, the APB questioned whether audit committees of non-executives would provide an adequate guarantee of auditors' independence, precisely because of the unitary board culture. To bridge the gap, the APB put up various possible ways to link auditors to the shareholders to whom they are theoretically responsible, or at least to the big institutional investors that have some clout with the board.

The most intriguing is to create something like the City Panel, which referees, interprets and enforces the code on takeovers and mergers, to perform that role for Cadbury's code of corporate governance. Roger Davis of Coopers & Lybrand, a member of the APB's working party, expounded the idea last week in a lecture to the Society of Conservative Accountants. Like the takeover panel, this new body would be voluntary but include representatives of all main City and business interests, so that its judgments would stick. Aggrieved shareholders and lenders or worried auditors could go to this panel to complain or seek guidance. The panel would call in the principals and adjudicate.

Such a body might not strike quite such fear into the boardrooms of large multinationals as the takeover panel does in the City parlours of banks or securities houses. With full support of the Stock Exchange and fund managers, it might well do the job. The final Cadbury report certainly needs to come up with some more convincing way to enforce its code. The alternative is the heavy hand of the law.

Anatole Kaletsky takes some comfort from the failure of ivory-tower experts to get to the heart of BBC economics

President Reagan once defined an economist as someone who sees something working perfectly well in practice and then asks "But would it work in theory as well?" Nowhere has the pernicious influence of ivory-tower economics been more evident than in the persistent undermining of one of the few British institutions that could fairly be described as working well—the BBC.

This is why last week's green paper on the BBC was not only important for the future of broadcasting, it also symbolised Britain's transition from the frenetic economic radicalism of Margaret Thatcher's 1980s to the cautious conservatism of John Major's "nation at ease with itself".

Gone was the Thatcherite faith that competition would automatically solve every dilemma of broadcasting quality, regulation and finance. Gone was the presumption of guilt against any "establishment" institution, especially if it was publicly funded. And gone was the enthusiasm for change for the sake of change.

For these omissions, Peter Brooke, the new heritage secretary, deserves congratulation. But both sides in what now promises to be a great non-debate on the future of broadcasting, now so determined to dodge the unpopular pitfalls of the radical 1980s, have ended up ignoring the genuine questions which have to be answered, even on a conservative agenda of preserving and rebuilding the quality of the BBC.

The three broad questions have been clear since the debate on the BBC's future began in the early 1980s. Should a large non-commercial broadcasting institution like the BBC exist? If so, what should it do? Given this remit, how much public money should it receive and how should that money be raised?

To any observer of broadcasting standards around the world, the order of importance

among these questions should have been obvious. The first one was hardly worth asking. Broadcasting in Britain was so much better than in America and other purely commercial markets, that the idea of doing away with a publicly financed BBC was patently absurd.

The third question, about financing, raised some important issues. The licence fee was equivalent to a socially regressive poll tax. Yet the costs of broadcasting production were rising more rapidly than retail prices, implying steadily higher licence fees if the quality and quantity of BBC output were both to be preserved. On balance, financing was probably a case for letting sleeping dogs lie. A licence fee indexed to retail prices seemed broadly acceptable to the public and the BBC could always try to make a case from time to time for an increase in real terms. It could also find large additional resources by making itself more efficient and by taking advantage of opportunities to sell programmes that did not conflict with its non-commercial remit. Above all, it could redirect its available funds from low priority areas to others that justified expansion.

In the long run, the redefinition of priorities was bound to be the main way of releasing the new resources the BBC would need to maintain the quality of its output. Thus, even the issue of financing should rapidly have devolved onto the second and most fundamental question in the BBC debate: what is the BBC supposed to do? This question, unlike the ones about the BBC's very existence and its financing raised the kind of

aesthetic, cultural and political issues that governments and public institutions should address at least once a decade.

Yet in the great debate about the BBC which started with the Peacock Report of 1986, and seems to have ended to all intents and purposes with last week's green paper, the crucial question of what the BBC should do has been completely overshadowed by the two red herrings of the BBC's right to exist and its financing.

The reason was that the economic theoreticians who dominated all public policy-making in the 1980s got the order of priorities in analysing the BBC precisely wrong. The Peacock Committee thought the main issue was whether a publicly financed BBC should exist in a competitive broadcasting market. Having decided that public broadcasting should eventually be phased out, they saw financing as essentially a transitional problem, until the competitive broadcasting market was up and running. The question of what, if anything, public broadcasting was for, could be settled by watching the competitive market evolve and setting up an "arts council of the air" to plug any cultural gaps left by competition.

The economists who wanted to abolish the public funding of the BBC dreamt of a fully competitive and broadly subsidised market in broadcasting, just like the market for newspapers, magazines and books. Such a market, they believed, would become possible in the 1990s because of the proliferation of cable and

satellite channels, and the development of technology that would allow viewers to pay directly for each programme they watched. Dozens of competing channels which sold their programmes directly to viewers would eliminate the market failures associated with a small number of channels whose programming was ultimately controlled by advertisers, rather than viewers themselves.

Like many of the theoretical models constructed by economists, this vision of a broadcasting market was both politically and logically appealing. It was also divorced from the real world.

There are many purely economic arguments why a competitive broadcasting market might not, on its own, produce all the programmes that viewers wanted to see. For example, the marginal cost of showing a programme to an additional viewer is zero. Thus broadcasters will always want to attract more viewers and "sell" them to advertisers: profitable programmes will always be those with mass appeal.

Another inherent "imperfection" is the very high and indivisible cost of production. Expensive programmes can only be made in a purely commercial market if they attract very large audiences; but the more fragmented the market becomes the harder it is to assemble the necessary critical mass of viewers. As a result, broadcasting markets naturally tend to become concentrated among a small number of competitors, however hard anti-trust authorities may try to break them up.

But all this is theory. There

is a more telling practical objection to the free-market approach of the 1980s—it fails to reflect events in the market itself.

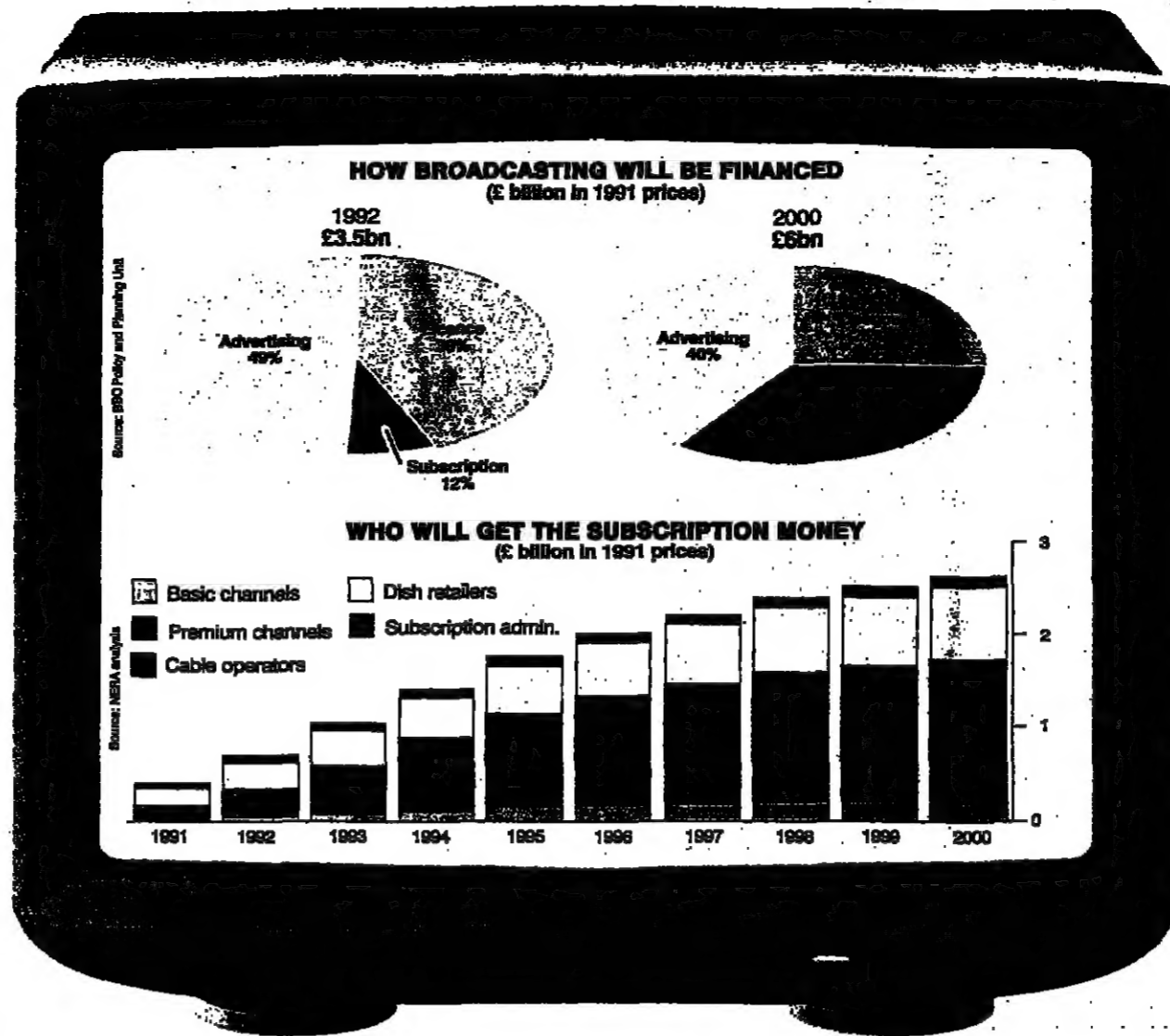
The 1980s idea that a broadcasting service comparable to the present BBC could eventually be financed on a pay-per-view basis reflected projections made about the rapid growth of cable and satellite TV. These hopes of rapid growth have been fully vindicated, not only in America but increasingly in Britain as well. By 2000, satellite and cable subscription revenues are likely, according to the BBC's own projections, to be 40 per cent more than the money collected by the licence fee (see top chart).

However, the evidence, both in Britain and other countries is that viewers will not spend significant amounts on subscriptions for general-interest TV. As Tim Congdon and other economists showed in their recently published handbook on broadcasting finance, almost the whole growth in TV subscription revenues has gone into "premium" channels showing movies and exclusive sports events. "Very few viewers are willing to pay significant amounts for other types of programmes", this study notes. Indeed, as the lower chart shows, the amounts of subscription revenue going to "basic" programme providers is expected to remain negligible until the end of the century, despite mushrooming sums spent on pay TV as a whole.

This is hardly surprising. If viewers can get their general TV free, from advertising-based channels, why should they volunteer to pay high subscriptions? Even if all viewers had to pay something for all TV programmes, the ones that carried advertising would be far cheaper and would soon put out of business the ones that did not. In the end, most pay-per-view TV would come just as dependent on advertising as commercial channels are today.

And why shouldn't they? In any free society, advertisers will play a dominant role in financing broadcasting, just as they do in financing newspapers. But experience suggests that the dominance of advertising may also limit the choices available to viewers, because the costs of making TV programmes are so much higher than the costs of publishing newspapers.

Some time well into the next century, it is conceivable that the choice offered by pay-TV will overlap and supplant what the BBC has to offer. The Peacock Commission's recommendation that all new television sold should be financed with pay-TV technology would have given this possibility a significant push. Ironically, however, this one constructive idea was ignored amid the furore over whether the BBC should be phased out. For the foreseeable future, people in Britain will feel lucky to have a publicly funded BBC, even if it lacks a clear sense of direction. They should feel even luckier that the ivory tower economists are finally being ignored.



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Bikes bearing bad news

REDUNDANCIES at McKenna & Co, the City solicitor, have caused more bad feeling than usual. Staff left one evening last week, suspecting nothing, until messengers on bikes arrived at their homes with letters telling them of their dismissal and requesting them to attend meetings at the Aldersgate offices next day. Stephen Whybrow, managing partner, says he and colleagues had "long discussions" before making the announcements that way. "We thought most people would prefer not to be told in the company of colleagues who were staying," he says. Furious ex-employees disagree. One says: "It was extremely insensitive and badly handled. I'd much prefer to have heard directly from my boss rather than being told by letter in front of my family."

Music
SOME rain-

musical about Britain's brief membership of the exchange-rate mechanism, one day? Stranger things have already happened, according to *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Money & Finance*, published by Macmillan. It includes an analysis by an American academic of *The Wizard of Oz* as a cunningly coded attack on the impact of the gold standard on the depressed American economy of the 1890s. As you will recall, those who have to "follow the yellow brick road" consist of the indomitable Dorothy, plus a bewildered bunch lacking brains, courage and a heart. At least it should not be too difficult casting today's politicians in their appropriate roles. Any suggestions for the cowardly lion?

Raising smiles

AFTER a night in City



Cowardly: Oz's lion

ducer Nick Miles, chief executive of Financial Dynamics, the PR firm, Joanna Kanska, *City Diary* fame, is star in the new play *Allo, Allo*, the side here will version of to pick a and, a ted by middle-

ton, the motor-cycling chief executive of Lloyd's of London, promises to surprise the City further. The event raised £40,000 last year.

Wellcomed

ON THE 26th day before Christmas, someone kindly sent the *City Diary* a mailing list with a touch of the Yuletide spirit. Maids-a-milking are in short supply but there are 41 lords, 140 ladies, a bishop, a brace of earls, three air vice-marshals, four venerables, five judges, ten major generals and 12 canons. The presence of 16,000 doctors may give the game away. All were among the 250,000 people—including 180,000 plain misters—who applied for the Wellcome prospectus earlier this year. Martin Dain sent out the original Wellcome madshot and has bought the list with an eye to the forthcoming BT share issue. Doubtless, it will have the drummers out there drumming at the government's door before too long.

DEBRA ISAAC

BBC1

- 6.00 **Coffee** (61450) 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** (98636295)
9.05 **GIROV**. Robert, Gary-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (3008011) 9.45 **Rose King**. Game show. The guest is Jason Riddington from the cast of *Casualty* (s) (5338653)
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather (7227160) 10.05 **Playdays**. For the young. Includes a visit to a Nottingham bicycle factory (s) (5337788)
10.30 **Good Morning**... with Anne and Nick. Weekly magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (4207810)
12.15 **Pebble Mill**. Alan Titchmarsh is joined by Kim Cresswell, a member of the cast of *Anne Get Your Gun*, who sings two numbers from the show (s) (7777768) 12.55 **Regional News** and weather (7880748)
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton. (Ceefax) Weather (17566)
1.30 **Neighbours**. (Ceefax) (s) (4209180) 1.50 **Going for Gold**. General knowledge quiz with European contestants. The question-master is Henry Kellie (s) (4209278)
2.15 **Paradise**. Western drama series. When the body of a girl is found in the woods, suspicion falls on a newcomer to the town (5328837)
3.00 **Family Affairs** presented by Gloria Hunniford and Carol Keating. Includes an item on how money difficulties can affect family relationships, advice on coping with stress-related illnesses and an idea to help children understand computers (2160)
3.30 **Tom and Jerry Double Bill**. Cartoons (4297943) 3.45 **PC Pinkerton** (s) (1118059) 3.50 **Wildabout**. The wildlife series looks at why beavers eat wood (s) (4284479) 4.05 **Gordon T. Gopher** (s) (2700562) 4.20 **West On Earth**. Episodes five of the 12-part science fiction comedy thriller (s) (4564437) 4.35 **Peter Pan** and the Pirates. (Ceefax) (s) (8105672)
4.55 **Neighbours** (4565672) 5.05 **Blue Peter**. (Ceefax) (s) (8581585) 5.35 **Neighbours** (s) (894108) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Moina Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (857)
6.30 **Regional News Magazine** (363). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 **Eldorado**. (Ceefax) (s) (4789)
7.30 **Witchdoctors**. Comedy series presented by Lynn Faulds Wood and John Stapleton. (Ceefax) (547)
8.00 **'Allo 'Allo** As the war draws to a close von Klunkerhoffen concocts a plan to assassinate Hitler and René is rumoured by Edith. (Ceefax) (s) (2419)
8.30 **Get Back**. The Laurence Marks and Martin Graney concert about a working-class family hit by the recession. The week, as Bernie and Lucy announce their engagement, Maria sees a chance to buy Bernie's council flat — to the honor of his wife Loretta. (Ceefax) (s) (2524)
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Barker. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (550)
9.30 **Paranoid**. Why Pay For Murder? A look at the options for the BBC following the publication of the green paper and the corporation's response. Among the contributors are John Birt, David Mellor, Ann Cynod, Melvyn Bragg, Verity Lambert and Sir David Attenborough (300127)
10.10 **The Richard Dimbleby Lecture**, introduced by David Dimbleby from the Banqueting House, Whitehall. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, discusses the judiciary in the nineties (911769). Wales: Between Ourselves 10.40 **The Richard Dimbleby Lecture**



Celebrity roles: Meryl Streep is interviewed (10.50pm)

- 10.50 **Five** with Barry Norman. An in-depth interview with the actress Meryl Streep (s) (897837). Northern Ireland: In Performance 11.25 **Five** 11.35: 11.20 **Come Dancing**
11.30 **Come Dancing** presented by Rosemarie Ford. London South meet Manchester for a place in the final (s) (524837). Wales: 11.55 **Film** 11.55
12.00 **Carer's Ahead**. News from the world of training (s) (855255). Northern Ireland: Come Dancing 12.40-11.00 **Carer's Ahead**
12.55 **Weather** (584807). Wales: Carer's Ahead 1.05 **News** and weather

VARIATIONS

- ITALIA**
London except 2.15-2.45 **Granat** (94437) 2.55-7.00 **Anglo News** (94108)
BORDER
As London except 2.15-2.45 **Dining in Paris** (79437) 2.55-3.30 **Sons and Daughters** (186563) 3.30-4.00 **Home and Away** (857524) 4.00 **Lookaround** (479) 4.30-7.00 **Five** (s) (897837) 7.00-7.30 **Carer's Ahead** (s) (855255) 7.30-7.55 **Granat** (94437) 7.55-8.30 **Anglo News** (94108) 8.30-9.00 **Five** (s) (897837) 9.00-9.30 **Carer's Ahead** (s) (855255) 9.30-9.55 **Granat** (94437) 9.55-10.30 **Anglo News** (94108) 10.30-11.00 **Five** (s) (897837) 11.00-11.30 **Carer's Ahead** (s) (855255) 11.30-11.55 **Granat** (94437) 11.55-12.30 **Anglo News** (94108) 12.30-1.00 **Five** (s) (897837) 1.00-1.30 **Carer's Ahead** (s) (855255) 1.30-1.55 **Granat** (94437) 1.55-2.30 **Anglo News** (94108) 2.30-3.00 **Five** (s) (897837) 3.00-3.30 **Carer's Ahead** (s) (855255) 3.30-3.55 **Granat** (94437) 3.55-4.30 **Anglo News** (94108) 4.30-5.00 **Five** (s) (897837) 5.00-5.30 **Carer's Ahead** (s) (855255) 5.30-5.55 **Granat** (94437) 5.55-6.30 **Anglo News** (94108) 6.30-7.00 **Five** 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